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Treatment of Ocular Proptosis and Corneal Ulcer Accompanying Fracture of Symphysis Mandible in a Cat

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Abstract

Ocular proptosis is abnormal outward protrusion of the eyeball. It is an ophthalmic emergency that requires early intervention. This condition, caused by orbital or head trauma, is usually associated with keratitis, corneal dryness and ulceration, strabismus, hyphema with facial bone fractures. It is common in dogs and rarely in cats due to its orbital structure. Visual acuity is achieved in ~ 50% of dogs, while this rate is very low in cats. Prognosis varies depending on the size of the trauma, the breed of the cat, the depth of the orbit, the duration of the proptosis, the size of the pupil, the condition of exposure keratitis. Treatment involves enucleation or placement of the eye with tarsorrhaphy. In this study, a 2-year-old, non-neutered male cat was brought to I.U- Cerrahpaşa Veterinary Faculty Department of Surgery with the complaint of trauma. Medical and operative treatment of proptosis, exposure keratitis and corneal ulcer were evaluated. Clinical examination revealed symphysis mandible in the jaw, ophthalmologic examination revealed pain around the right eye, mucopulent discharge, central and large corneal ulcer, partial protrusion of the eyeball. Anterior and posterior segment examination and menace and pupillary light reflexes could not be assessed due to corneal lesion. Fracture of symphysis mandible was achieved by cerclage wire fixation and protruded eyeball was replaced with temporary tarsorrhaphy. Horizontal mattress suture was performed in the tarsorrhaphy process. Subconjunctival dexamethasone was injected after the operation. Medical treatment was used for 4 weeks and tarsarofi sutures were removed 3 weeks later. There was a superficial fibrosis on the cornea but vision was provided. The aim of this case is to emphasize the importance of appropriate medical treatment and surgical approach in post-traumatic proptosis of cats in which emergency intervention is very important for prognosis.

Keywords: Eye, Cat, Corneal ulcer, Proptosis, Symphysis mandible

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