

A CASE OF OCULAR SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA WITH INFILTRATIVE GROWTH IN CAT.

Autori: M.P. Cassarani^{1,2}, G. Muzzi³, P. Pirani³, A. Marchegiani¹, F. Laus¹, C. Giudice⁴.

¹School of Veterinary Medical Sciences, University of Camerino, Italy

²REOVVA Membre, Réseau Européen d'Ophtalmologie Vétérinaire et de Vision Animale

³Centro Veterinario Argo, Via Valenti 1, Ancona, Italy

⁴DIVET, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Milan, Italy

Purpose To describe an extensively infiltrating ocular squamous cell carcinoma in a domestic cat.

Methods A 10-year-old, female spayed domestic short haired cat (DSH) was referred to ophthalmology clinic Centro Veterinario Argo – Ancona – Italy, for exophthalmus, pain and blepharospasm of the left eye.

Ophthalmological examination showed marked blepharospasm, severe pain after digital pressure and conjunctival chemosis of left eye, while menace response and fundus were not evaluable. Right eye revealed positive menace response, direct PLR and normal fundus.

Due to the impossibility to completely evaluate left eye, an ocular ultrasonography was performed, showing a loss of intraocular structures replaced by a hyperechoic mass. Cat was FIV and FeLV negative and an aspirate of left retromandibular lymphnode was submitted for cytological evaluation. Symptomatic therapy for pain was performed before proceeding to left eye exenteration.

Results Macroscopic evaluation of left eye, after formalin fixation, showed complete loss of normal architecture, that was substituted by a grayish, irregular, proliferative tissue. Histologically, a highly infiltrative squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) invaded and replaced normal eye structures. The neoplasia extended only focally to the conjunctiva at the base of the nictitant membrane and infiltrated extensively orbital muscle.

Conclusion To the authors best known this is the first report of ocular SCC in italian tricolor coat cat. Absence of involvement of the eyelid and focal extension to conjunctiva and base of nictitant membrane suggest that neoplasia development did not start from conjunctival or palpebral epithelium but most likely from the limbus.