

# TALUS METASTASES OF A PRIMARY PULMONARY NEOPLASIA IN A CAT



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## INTRODUCTION

This report describes an unusual case of metastasis of a suspected primary lung tumour to the tarsus and possibly metatarsus in a cat.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

A 15-year-old neutered male Persian cat was referred because of 2 weeks history of non-weight-bearing lameness in the right hind limb.

## RESULTS

Radiographic studies showed a swelling of soft tissues at the level of the tarsus, and a diffuse and severe osteolysis in the third and fourth tarsal bones. A dislocation with a possible pathological fracture was visible in the fourth tarsal bone. A marked periarticular proliferation of new bone around the joint, and a severe, interrupted, active periosteal reaction, primarily affecting the distal rows of tarsal bone as well as the metatarsal bones, were observed.

A primary bone neoplasia or metastasis from unidentified primary carcinoma involving tarsus and metatarsal bones represented the main differential diagnosis.

Thoracic radiographic examination identified a 7-cm-diameter, oval, smooth, mineralized, well defined soft tissue opaque mass in the dorso-caudal aspect of the left lung. Histopathological examination of the right tarsus was suggestive of metastatic carcinoma.

A fine needle aspirate of the pulmonary mass confirmed the presence of epithelial cells with criteria of malignancy.

## CONCLUSIONS

Metastatic spread to the bone is uncommon in cats but well recognized and is reported most commonly from primary lung cancer.

Metastatic disease to the bone should be included in the differential diagnosis for lameness in elderly cats, independent of the location of the lesion, and thoracic studies should always be taken independent of presence or absence of respiratory signs.

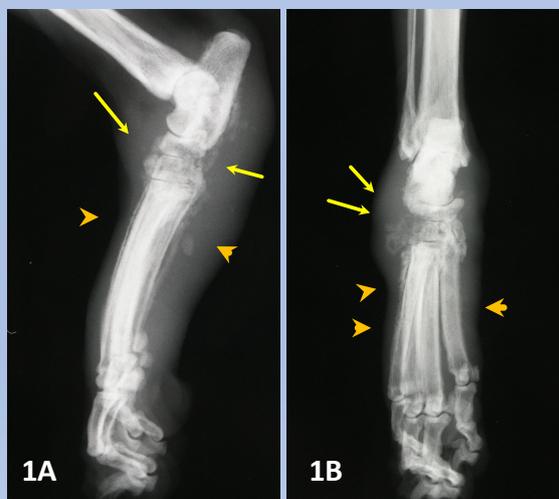


Figure 1A-1B: A diffuse and severe osteolysis in the third and fourth tarsal bone with a collapse of the first row of all tarsal bones is visible (arrows). A severe, interrupted and irregular periosteal reaction, primarily affecting the distal rows of tarsal and metatarsal bone (arrowheads).

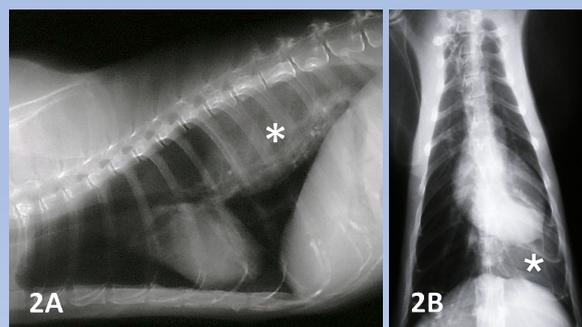


Figure 2A-2B: LL and VD radiographic images of the thorax show an oval, smooth, well defined soft tissue opaque mass in the dorso-caudal aspect of the left lung (\*).