Chyloabdomen due to a foreign body granuloma in a dog

M. Miguel-Garces¹, A. Destri¹, D. Kelly², R. Quinn³

1. Southern Counties Veterinary Specialists, Department of Diagnostic Imaging
2. Southern Counties Veterinary Specialists, Department of Internal Medicine
3. Southern Counties Veterinary Specialists, Department of Surgery

Introduction

Chyloabdomen is a rare clinical presentation often secondary to obstruction/rupture of the abdominal lymphatics, or congestive heart failure. The prognosis is related to the underlying pathology and is frequently poor.

Case history

A two-year old female neutered Springer Spaniel was presented with a one-week history of progressive abdominal distension. Fluid analysis was consistent with a chylous effusion.

Computed tomography (CT) revealed the presence of a metal object embedded in a soft tissue attenuating lesion, located ventral to the aorta and surrounding the roots of the celiac and cranial mesenteric arteries (Figure 1 and 2).

CT lymphangiography via the right metatarsal pad showed normal flow through the lumbar trunk and cisterna chyli to the thoracic duct, without extravasation of contrast (Figure 3).

The metallic object corresponded to an air-gun pellet and was removed intraoperatively under fluoroscopic guidance.

The patient was discharged with a ten-day course of antimicrobial and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory therapy.

Conclusion

This is the first case reported of a chyloabdomen due to a foreign body granuloma which shows that an excellent outcome can be achieved following removal of the foreign material.

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  European Veterinary Specialist in Diagnostic Imaging