Case Report: Eyelid Coloboma in a Domestic Short Haired Cat

Shao-Hui CHENG, Lih-Seng YEH, *Chung-Tien LIN

Department of Veterinary Medicine, College of Bio-Resources and Agriculture, National Taiwan University. No.1, Sec. 4. Roosevelt Rd., Taipei 106, Taiwan, R.O.C.

(Received: June 7, 2006. Accepted: September 7, 2006.)

ABSTRACT A 5-month-old, intact male domestic short haired cat was referred to the National Taiwan University Veterinary Hospital (NTUVH) because of bilateral severe ocular infection. The cat had bilateral upper eyelid coloboma (eyelid agenesis) with facial hairs irritated corneas. The eyelid defects were repaired by Roberts and Bistner technique, using the lower eyelid to re-construct the upper eyelids. Consequent trichiasis was corrected by blepharoplasty a few times. The final outcome of the feline eyes after surgery was good. Eyelid coloboma is sporadically reported in some breeds of cats, but it is the first case report in Taiwan. [Cheng SH, Yeh LS, and *Lin CT. Case report: Eyelid coloboma in a domestic short haired cat. Taiwan Vet J 32 (4): 265-270, 2006. *Corresponding author TEL: 886-2-2735 9931, FAX: 886-2-2735 9931, E-mail: ctlin@ntu.edu.tw]

Key words: blepharoplasty, eyelid coloboma, domestic short haired cat, trichiasis

INTRODUCTION

Coloboma is a congenital malformation by lacking of a portion of ocular tissue. The colobomatus defects involve single or multiple ocular tissues, which may include the eyelid, iris, optic nerve, and sclera [12]. They are usually bilateral and show diverseness in the degree of severity [1].

The exact etiology has not been established, but heritable traits contributing to abnormal development when optic fissure closing and differentiation of eyelid structures are the suspected reasons [1,4,7]. In utero viral cause has also been proposed for this syndrome [12], but no supporting evidence is reported to date.

Eyelid colobomas tend to be bilateral, which usually involve only the upper lids especially lateral portion of the lid [12]. Although some sporadic cases have been reported in the domestic short haired, Persian, and Burmese, the breed predisposition in eyelid coloboma in cats has not been confirmed [5,9,12].

This condition is rare in dogs [9]. Eyelid coloboma causes significant discomfort, and the clinical signs include blepharospasm, epiphora, irregular corneal surfaces resulting from trichiasis [3,5,17,20].

Medical therapy is difficult to cure eyelid defects, so the surgery involvement is necessary. A desirable treatment involves both surgical reconstruction and postoperative trichiasis correction [3,12]. Several surgical techniques have been described to reconstruct the coloboma, ranging from simple closure of smaller defect to surgical procedures that translocate skin and conjunctiva onto the defect [1,2,3,5,6,7,9,13,19,20].

CASE REPORT

The patient was a 5-month-old male domestic short haired cat with a history of bilateral severe ocular infection. There was a protruded third eyelid of the right eye. Ophthalmology examination revealed bilateral upper eyelid colobomas extending temporarily