Retrospective Survey of Surgical Excision of Feline Vaccine-Associated Sarcoma: 57 Cases (2002-2009)

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ABSTRACT Feline vaccine-associated sarcoma (VAS) is a tumor with high malignancy and is hard to be cured. Medical records of 57 cats with the histologic diagnosis of VAS between 2002 and 2009 in Taiwan were reviewed. In the surgery cases, the median size of tumors at the greatest diameter is 5.0 cm. The median disease free interval and the median survival time are 120 and 210 days, respectively. At the end of the study, 28 of 57 (49%) cats were dead because of the tumor related reasons. The main complication after surgical excision is healing disorder, however which do not inevitably lead to poorer prognosis. Hindquarter paralysis developed in 4 cats, 2 were confirmed by CT scan and post-mortem examination to be related with tumor invasion. This is the first retrospective study to bring up the possibility that VAS may lead to paralysis. In addition, clients and veterinarians in Taiwan substantially lack the awareness of VAS. Although the incidence of VAS is relatively low, complete evaluation is strongly advised before doing any injection or vaccination due to the aggressiveness and difficulty of management of this tumor. And the veterinarians should do accurate diagnosis immediate and aggressive management to vaccine-associated sarcomas. [Chou TH, Chou HY, Cheng CH, *Yeh LS. Retrospective Survey of Surgical Excision of Feline Vaccine-Associated Sarcoma: 57 Cases (2002-2009). Taiwan Vet J. 37 (1): 53-62 • 2011. *Corrsponding author TEL: 886-2-2739-6828-2070, FAX: 886-2-2732-3817, E-mail: Isyeh@ntu.edu.tw]

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