

Incidence of Cataract in Dogs – A Survey of 487 Cases

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Abstract

All the cases brought to the Small Animal Ophthalmology Outpatient Unit of Madras Veterinary College Teaching Hospital, Chennai for a period of ten months were screened for the incidence of cataract. Out of the total 1521 ophthalmic cases screened 487 cases had intraocular pathologies. Out of which 89 cases (18.2 per cent) were found to have visual deficit due to cataract alone. The incidence was more in spitz (41.7 percent) followed by non-descript (30.33 percent). Male dogs were found to be more affected (62.93 percent) than female dogs (37.07 percent). The age of the dogs ranged from 4 months to 17 years. 0-6 years age group had the highest incident rate (37.07 percent) followed by 6 - 10 years age group (33.07 percent). Out of 89 Cases 71 dogs (79.78 percent) had bilateral cataract, and 18 dogs (20.22 Percent) had unilateral cataract. Incidence on stages of cataract out of 89 cases 48 dogs had matured 37 had immature and 4 dogs had in tumescent cataract.

Key Words: Incidence, Cataract, dogs.

Material and Methods

A study was conducted on the incidents of cataract in dogs for a period of 10 months cases with history, clinical signs, Ophthalmoscope (direct / indirect) examination, were included in this study.

Result and Discussion

The incidence of cataract cases accounted for 18.2 per cent of the total 487 intraocular cases recorded for a period of ten months.

The highest number of cases were recorded among the spitz (41.57 per cent), followed by the nondescript (30.33 per cent), Labrador Retriever (9.19 per cent), Cocker Spaniel and Lhasa apso each were (6.74 per cent) and Doberman (2.24 per cent). Terrier, Golden Retriever, German Shepherd constituted (1.23 per cent) each (Fig. 1). These findings were similar to a study conducted on 27 cases of cataractous dogs by Nair and Vasanth (2007). The distribution pattern of various breeds of dogs in Chennai exhibit a vast difference and this could be the reason for a higher incidence in Spitz breed.

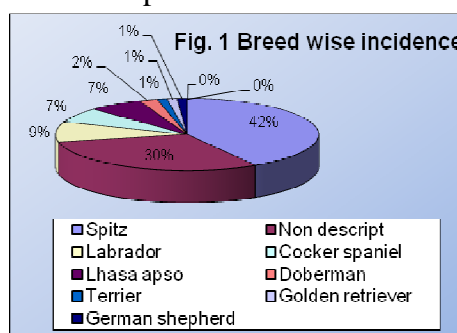


Fig. 1: Breed Wise Incidence

Out of the total cases presented to the ophthalmic unit male animals (62.93 per cent) were found to outnumber, the

female animals (37.07 per cent), (Fig. 2) though a higher incidence has been recorded in females than males by Nair and Vasanth (2007). However Gelatt and Edward (2005) reported that the cataractous female to male ratio as 1:1. Hence it can be concluded that, such variations in the studies would project no gender wise correlation of the diseases pathology.

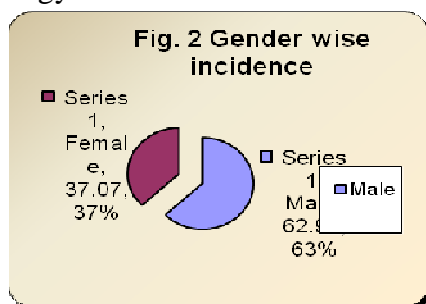


Fig. 2: Gender Wise Incidence

Age wise analysis of the clinical cases showed that the condition has the highest incidence in young animals followed by middle aged and older dogs. The average age of incidence was 7.6 years, with the 0 to 6 years age group showing the highest incidence rate of 37.07 per cent. The 6 to 10 years age group showed the next highest incidence rate of 33.70 per cent, followed by an incidence of 28.08 per cent for the 11 to 15 years age group. The 16 to 17 years age group showed the lowest incidence 1.12 per cent. (Fig. 3)

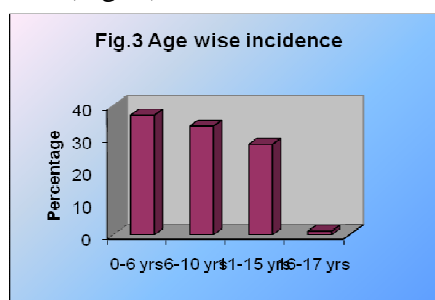


Fig. 3: Age Wise Incidence

In a study conducted by Williams *et al.* (2004) the mean age of prevalence of cataract was 9.4 ± 3.3 and in a study conducted by Ozgencil (2005) the mean age was 8.57. In this study, the mean prevalence was 7.6 years. This result concurred with findings of Ledbetter *et al.* (2004) and Woerdt *et al.* (1993).

Analysis of the 89 clinical cases showed that 79.78 per cent were bilateral cataract and 20.22 per cent were unilateral. In a study conducted by Ledbetter *et al.* (2004) bilateral cataract was more compared to unilateral cataract. Among the unilateral cases studied 44.44 per cent were in OS and 55.56 per cent were in OD.

Analysis of the clinical cases showed that the condition has the highest incidence in mature cataract (53.9 per cent) followed by immature cataract (41.57 per cent). Intumescent (4.49 per cent) has the lowest incidence. This result did not concur with Adkins and Hendrix (2005), who reported that the immature cataract has higher incidence followed by hypermature, mature and incipient stage. This result concurred with Williams *et al.* (2004) who reported a higher incidence in mature cataract. Diabetic cataract, congenital/nuclear cataract and posterior polar subcapsular cataract showed a lowest incidence rate.

Summary

A survey was conducted to analysis the incidence of cataract in dogs.

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