

Primary mandibular salivary gland malignant melanoma in a dog.

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Abstract:

A six-year-old, female spayed, Bulldog cross presented with a right mandibular mass. Cytology from a fine-needle aspirate yielded black, pigmented material. Initial staging consisted of a complete blood cell count, serum biochemistry, oral examination, thoracic radiographs and a biopsy of the mandibular mass. Subsequent computed tomography confirmed a mass within the right mandibular salivary gland and enlargement of the adjacent lymph nodes. No other distant metastases were identified. The patient underwent surgical removal of the salivary gland and adjacent lymph nodes. Histopathology and immunohistochemistry confirmed an aggressive malignant melanoma with lymph node metastasis. The dog developed lethargy, inappetence, dullness, pleural, pericardial and abdominal effusion six weeks post-operatively and was euthanised due to quality-of-life concerns and owner cost constraints.