

ALICAM and Gastrointestinal Disease in Dogs

Part C: ALICAM Findings in Dogs with Gastrointestinal Signs and a Normal Gastrointestinal Tract on Ultrasound

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The purpose of this study was to evaluate the ability of ALICAM, an ingestible capsule imaging system, to detect abnormalities in dogs with gastrointestinal signs and a normal ultrasound.

Fourteen dogs with gastrointestinal signs and a normal gastrointestinal tract on ultrasound were given ALICAM. Board-certified internists interpreted ALICAM studies and radiologists performed or interpreted ultrasounds.

The median age was 7.9 years (0.875–10.9) and median weight was 30 kg (6.2–40). Presenting signs included a combination of vomiting (7/14), hematemesis (2/14), diarrhea (7/14), melena (2/14), anorexia (4/14), weight loss (6/14), anemia (3/14) and microcytosis (1/14). Signs were present from 24 h to 2 years. ALICAM identified abnormalities that could localize and/or explain presenting signs in 13/14 dogs. Findings included diffusely dilated lacteals (2/14) in dogs with weight loss and diarrhea, bleeding jejunal mass (1/14) in a dog with anemia and weight loss, large gastric hematoma (1/14) in a dog with anemia, hematemesis and melena, findings consistent with inflammatory bowel disease (6/14), including moderately to severely irregular gastric and small intestinal mucosa with erosions in dogs with weight loss, vomiting and/or diarrhea, gastric erosions (2/14) in dogs with anemia and melena or microcytosis and markedly delayed gastric emptying with erosions (1/14) in a dog with subacute anorexia. Delayed gastric emptying was also seen in 4 other previously aforementioned dogs with either vomiting or moderate to severe gastric mucosal abnormalities. One study was inconclusive.

The results show that ALICAM can identify abnormalities undetected by ultrasound and may facilitate the diagnosis of gastrointestinal disease.

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