

The use of capsule endoscopy alongside abdominal ultrasonography in an 11 year old Flatcoated Retriever

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Objectives

The objective was to utilise capsule endoscopy (ALICAM; Infiniti Medical) as an adjunctive imaging modality, following no detectable ultrasonographic abnormalities in a chronic vomiting case. The aim was to seek additional information about both the appearance of the gastrointestinal tract and transit times without the need for general anaesthesia. This was the first use of this device in the North West of the United Kingdom.

Methods

An 11 year old, female (neutered) Flatcoated Retriever presented with an eight week history of vomiting, altered feeding habits and reduced appetite. No discernable abnormalities were detected at initial gastrointestinal investigations, including; haematology, biochemistry, serum cobalamin, trypsin-like immunoreactivity, faecal sampling and abdominal ultrasonography with a board-certified imager. Response to a four-week novel-protein diet trial and omeprazole 1mg/kg orally once daily, was minimal. Following a 24-hour starve, the camera device was administered orally and passed uneventfully in the faeces.

Results

A total of 36982 images were obtained over an 18.4hour period. Gastric (7.5hours) and oesophageal (18minutes) transit times were both prolonged. Gastric erosions and thickening of the duodenal mucosa were evident despite no abnormalities on ultrasonography. The dog responded positively to the addition of metoclopramide 0.25mg/kg orally twice daily.

Statement

Capsule endoscopy is useful in first opinion practice as a non-invasive, adjunctive imaging modality, forgoing general anaesthesia. It provides information about gastrointestinal transit time, alongside mucosal appearance, which were not detectable on ultrasonography alone.

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