

## Capsule endoscopy findings in dogs with hypoalbuminemia

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The purpose of this study was to analyze capsule endoscopy (CE) findings in hypoalbuminemic dogs. The records of 182 dogs given ALICAM for gastrointestinal signs and/or laboratory abnormalities were retrospectively assessed.

Seventeen dogs were hypoalbuminemic and had complete studies. The mean  $\pm$  SD albumin was  $1.9 \pm 0.4$  g/dL, mean  $\pm$  SD age was  $7.5 \pm 2.8$  years, and mean  $\pm$  SD weight was  $20.5 \pm 11.4$  kg. Eight of 17 dogs had concurrent anemia. Prior to CE, 15 of 17 dogs had ultrasound examinations. The gastrointestinal tract (stomach, small intestine [SI], and colon) was normal (n=8) or characterized by nonspecific wall thickening (n=7). Seventeen of 17 CE studies were abnormal.

Findings consisted of irregular/thickened mucosa with or without erosions (n=6), numerous dilated lacteals (n=4), severe erosions or ulcers with active bleeding (n=2), mass (n=2), hookworms (n=1), SI nodules (n=1), and lesions consistent with colonic vascular ectasia (n=1). Lesions seen on CE (dilated lacteals, colonic vascular ectasia) were confirmed in two dogs that subsequently underwent traditional endoscopy. A third dog had gastroduodenoscopy prior to CE, which showed SI hemorrhage, but missed the SI nodules later identified with CE. A diagnosis of *Strongyloides* was made based on endoscopic biopsies and fecal Baermann test. A fourth dog with severe melena had a negative gastroduodenoscopy and laparoscopy, yet CE subsequently identified severe gastrointestinal erosions and ulcers thought to be secondary to NSAID administration.

CE can be informative in dogs with hypoalbuminemia even when lesions are not identified with traditional endoscopy, surgery, or ultrasound.

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