

Utility of Capsule Endoscopy as a Complement to Traditional Endoscopy

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Capsule endoscopy (CE) has a number of advantages over traditional endoscopy (TE): it allows for assessment of mucosal abnormalities of the entire gastrointestinal tract and can be performed in conscious dogs. CE has been described in dogs as a method to evaluate for gastrointestinal mucosal lesions. CE may be a valuable tool in reassessment of dogs that previously were evaluated by TE.

This study describes the use of capsule endoscopy (CE) in dogs following traditional endoscopy (TE). Ten dogs were retrospectively identified that received CE within 6 months of TE (range 0–151 days). Seven dogs received CE for assessment of suspected gastrointestinal hemorrhage; CE detected gastrointestinal mucosal lesions in the stomach and jejunum (n=2), diffusely throughout SI and colon (n=2), jejunum (n=1), ileum (n=1), and colon (n=1) that were not detected with TE. Three dogs received CE to assess lack of response to therapy in dogs with chronic enteropathy. In these dogs, CE detected persistent gastric erosions and duodenal mucosal changes seen previously with TE; in 2/3 dogs, CE also identified lesions in additional locations not seen with TE. CE detected gastrointestinal mucosal lesions not detected by TE in 9/10 dogs.

Though further investigation is needed, CE appears to be a complementary and informative technique in the management of dogs with chronic GI signs that have undergone TE.

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