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VET BRIEF

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## A CASE OF HISTIOCYTOMA IN A LEOPARD

### *PANTHERA PARDUS*

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**web supplement**

Neoplasms of skin like histiocytomas are common in canines. These benign tumors arise from the monocyte macrophage population of the skin (Henderson & Brewer, 1993). The present paper reports a case of histiocytoma in the ventral aspect of neck in a leopard.

A female leopard, aged 9 years weighing about 50kg, at Nandankanan Zoo developed a fluctuating swelling at ventral cervical region with symptoms of periodic inappetance and respiratory distress. Parenteral administration of Cefotaxime sodium 1g (Alkem Lab) and Neurobion 9ml (Merck Lab) once daily for seven days suppressed the symptoms. The condition recurred after seven months showing similar symptoms with marked increase in swelling. Repetition of initial treatment did not produce favourable results. It was decided to anaesthetize the leopard for examination and treatment. A mixture of 0.65mg of atropine sulphate, 0.25mg of xylazine hydrochloride and 75mg of ketamine hydrochloride was injected intramuscularly after restraining the animal in a squeeze cage. The leopard came to recumbent position

in nine minutes and was transported to the zoo hospital. Sonogram of the region was performed using a linear probe of 5MHz which revealed heterogenous anechoic and hypochoic areas identifying combination of solid mass with little soft tissues. It was observed that the larynx and trachea were deviated from its normal position. A bottle of DNS was infused intravenously and the animal was intubated with an endotracheal tube of 9cm ID. It was decided to enucleate the mass. A liberal skin incision was given over the mass to exteriorize it from the underlying tissues. On examination it was found that the growth was extending from hyoid bone to thoracic inlet caudally putting pressure on trachea and oesophagus. As the growth was highly vascular and in view of its proximity to vital structures around the area it was decided not to intervene further and hence the incision was closed. The animal was revived with 10mg of intravenous yohimbine hydrochloride and brought to sitting posture but within 20 minutes it developed cardiac arrest and died. Post-mortem examination did not reveal any gross lesions any where in the body. Histopathological examination of the growth showed large, closely packed cells appeared indistinctly grouped by thin fibrous tissue. Cells showed round to oval vesiculated nuclei and prominent nucleoli. Mitotic figures were not infrequent. Cytoplasm were clear, many being vacuolar indicating it to be a histiocytoma (Image 1<sup>w</sup>).

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See Image 1<sup>w</sup> in the web supplement at [www.zoosprint.org](http://www.zoosprint.org)