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A CASE OF ENDOMETRIAL CARCINOMA IN A SPOTTED DEER *Axis axis*

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web supplement

Carcinoma of endometrium and cervix are rare in domestic animals. Though cystic endometrial hyperplasia is common, carcinoma is rare and when it does occur, does not seem require prior hormonal conditioning of the endometrium. Carcinoma of the endometrium appears to occur more frequently in cattle than in other domestic animals. The tumours may be single or multiple, hard, nodular masses of varying size in the uterine wall. Umbilication of the serosal surface is a characteristic feature of the neoplasm. The regional lymph nodes and the lungs are the usual sites of metastatic lesions (Jubb *et al.*, 1993).

The female genitalia recovered from a Spotted Deer (*Axis axis*) of Thrissur Zoo during postmortem examination revealed enlargement of uterus. On detailed examination, the left uterine horn showed multiple nodules of varying sizes in the myometrium, which on sectioning revealed brownish-white cheesy exudates (Image 1^w). On histopathology, the sections revealed sheets of oval and spindle shaped cells with indistinct cell borders and scanty cytoplasm (Image 2^w). The nuclei were elongated and hyperchromatic and showed mild pleomorphism. The stroma was scanty with infiltration of tumour cells into the adjacent myometrial tissue. Based on the histological appearance of the sheets of pleomorphic, hyperchromatic epithelial cells with occasional mitotic figures without any stromal reaction and any specific pattern of arrangement, the tumour was histologically diagnosed as a case of endometrial undifferentiated carcinoma. All the other organs were apparently normal.

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^w see Images 1 & 2 in the web supplement at www.zoosprint.org

