

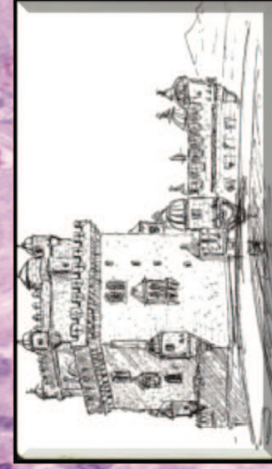


II Iberic Meeting of Veterinary Pathology

XVI Annual Meeting of the Portuguese
Society of Animal Pathology

XXIII Annual Meeting of the Spanish
Society of Veterinary Anatomical
Pathology

*Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária,
Lisboa – Portugal, 1st – 3rd June 2011*



Abstracts book

II Iberic Meeting of Veterinary Pathology

Lisbon
2011



P57 - IMMUNOHISTOCHEMICAL EVALUATION OF TNF EXPRESSION IN CANINE CYSTIC ENDOMETRIAL HYPERPLASIA

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Introduction: Tumour Necrosis Factor (TNF) has been identified in the uterus of several species, and altered TNF expression is reported in some pathological conditions. This study sought to evaluate TNF expression in canine cystic endometrial hyperplasia (CEH; n=20) and compare it with expression in postpartum samples (PP; n=5).

Materials and Methods: Canine uteri presenting CEH were collected at ovariectomy for subsequent histological classification using Dow's grading system (I, II, III, IV). For immunohistochemistry, a primary monoclonal antibody raised against the canine TNF molecule (sc-80386; Santa Cruz Biotechnology Inc.) was used at a dilution of 1:50. Staining intensity was scored (0-3) in superficial and glandular epithelia (SE and GE) and in cystic epithelium (CE).

Results: Preliminary results indicated more heterogeneous TNF staining in almost all CEH samples compared to PP specimens, possibly due to the inflammatory infiltrate observed in the uterus in CEH grades II, III and IV. Overall TNF positivity differed significantly between CEH and PP specimens ($p=0.046$). Stromal positivity was higher for CEH grades I and II than for grades III and IV and PP; values for PP were higher than for CEH grade III and IV. In CEH specimens, staining intensity was greater in the SE than in GE, whilst scores were lower in the CE ($p=0.012$). The greater staining intensity for TNF recorded particularly in the early stages of CEH suggest that this factor may be involved in the onset of this pathology.