

*“Pearls”
of
Veterinary Medicine*



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AT A GLANCE

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Oncology

Canine lymphoma

For canine lymphoma, use flow cytometry to determine subtype. [ref] Treatments for canine lymphoma include the CHOP protocol, [Tanovea-CA1](#) which is an injection given q3weeks, or [Laverdia](#) which is an oral medication given twice weekly for 3-9 months. A recent [study](#) suggests alternating Tanovea with doxorubicin.

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Feline lymphoma

In suspected feline lymphoma, use PARR testing. [ref] Lymphoma in cats may be a continuum of IBD so a recurrence of GI signs in a cat with IBD should prompt a re-evaluation for lymphoma.

“PARR is a PCR-based assay to determine if a population of cells is the result of the clonal expansion of B or T cells, which usually, but not always, implies lymphoid neoplasia.

The test utilizes genomic DNA and PCR primers that are specific to the canine V(D)J splice junctions of B and T cell receptor gene segments in lymphocytes. Because a clonal expansion of a population of neoplastic lymphocytes can be PARR positive for both B and T cell rearrangements, PARR should be used with caution for the lineage assignment of canine lymphoma. Additionally, PARR should never be used as the sole assay to determine if a dog has lymphoma or leukemia. Instead, PARR can be one of the tests used to interpret difficult cases in addition to cytology, immunocytochemistry, flow cytometry, history, and clinical signs. The main advantage of PARR is the ability to differentiate a monoclonal/oligoclonal or neoplastic lymphoid proliferation from a reactive and polyclonal or pseudoclonal proliferation. The PARR assay can be run on fresh lymph node aspirates, bone marrow aspirates, cellular effusions, blood, cells scraped from cellular cytology slides, formalin fixed tissues (25 micron sections), and fresh frozen tissues (25 micron sections kept at -80 degrees).” [ref]

Grade-shifting

Grade-shifting is when a tumor recurs with a different grade than previously (either a higher or lower grade). About half of soft tissue sarcomas will grade-shift either higher or lower, but about 20% of MCTs will grade-shift but generally to a higher grade. [ref]

Liquid Biopsy

“Liquid Biopsy” – the no-longer-available OncoK9 tests for cell free DNA was good at detecting lymphoma, hemangiosarcoma and osteosarcomas but was not a good screening test due to poor sensitivity (55%). Negative animals were not necessarily free of cancer. NuQ cannot differentiate neoplasia from systemic inflammation, sepsis, trauma or immune-mediated disease, making interpretation difficult.

NB: see Cap Rep 42(11):3-4 about NuQ and Pet Preferred Diagnostics

