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Introduction

To determine the outcome of horses with cutaneous neoplasms treated with intralesional cisplatin.

Materials and methods

Medical records of all horses admitted to the University Veterinary Centre from 2007 to 2013 for treatment of cutaneous tumours were reviewed. Horses were eligible for inclusion if intralesional cisplatin was included in the treatment of the neoplasm and if a minimum follow-up period of 2 years was available. Any post-operative follow-up appointments were assessed and the findings noted. The owners of the horses were then contacted via telephone and questioned using a standardised list of questions.

Results

A total of 33 tumors were treated in 31 horses, with tumor type confirmed histologically in 18/31 patients. Tumour types included sarcoid (20), squamous cell carcinoma (5), melanoma (4), soft tissue sarcoma (2), fibrosarcoma (1) and peripheral nerve sheath tumour (1). All animals underwent conventional debulking of the tumor prior to cisplatin treatment. Cisplatin containing biodegradable beads were used in 30/31 horses and injectable cisplatin in 2/31 cases (with one horse receiving both treatments). Two horses were lost to follow-up after the first procedure. Nine horses had repeat cisplatin bead implantation via standing surgery. Twenty-one horses (72%) developed side effects following cisplatin treatment, the majority of which were considered minor. Twenty of 29 (69%) animals for which long-term follow-up information was available were relapse free 2 years after treatment. Tumor reoccurrence was observed in nine (31%) cases. Cosmetic outcome as determined by the owner was deemed good in 25/29 (86%) of cases.

Relevance to clinical equine practice

Results suggest that intralesional cisplatin is effective for the treatment of cutaneous neoplasms in horses. Owners should be forewarned of the potential for minor complications following treatment.

Declaration of interest

None declared.