

Transmissible Venereal Tumor (TVT) in a Cross Breed Female Pitbull

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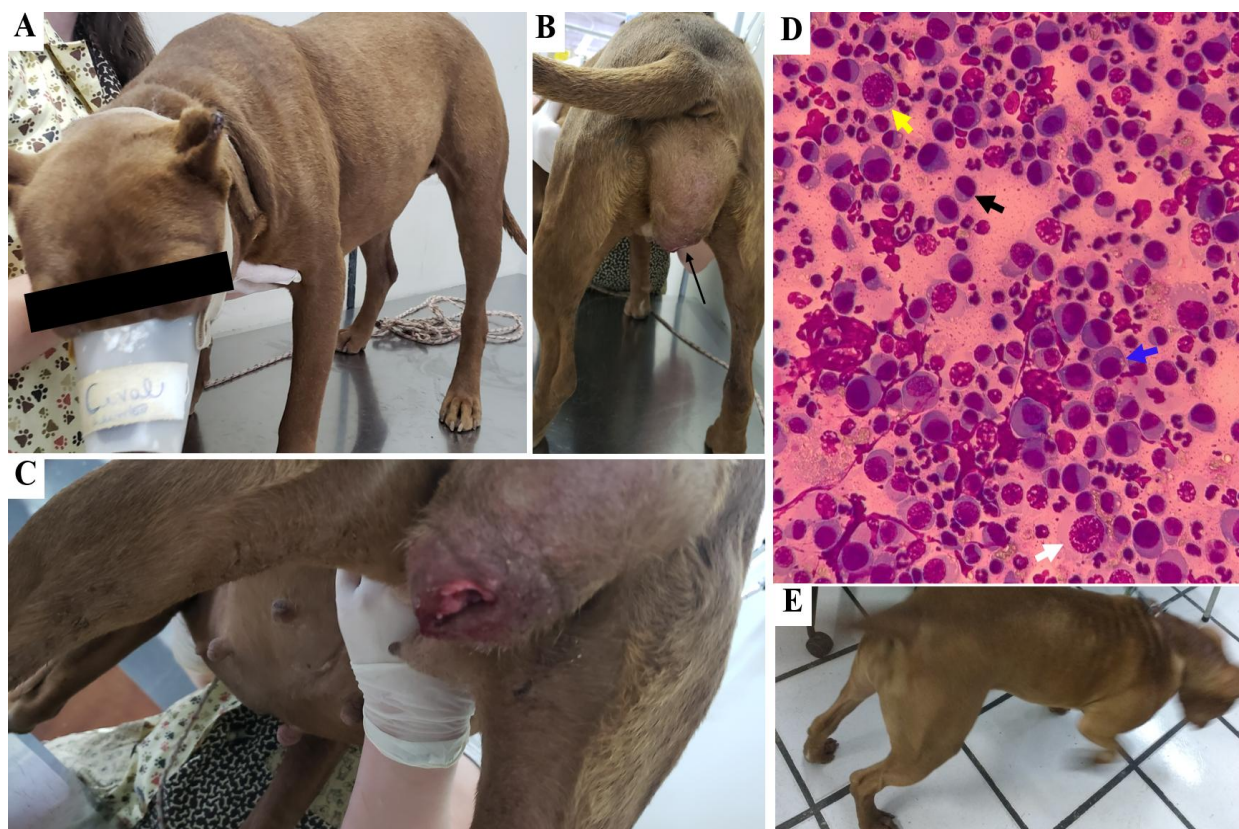


Figure 1. A 2-years-old crossbreed Pitbull female dog, unspayed (A), presenting an intense increase in volume in the vulvar region (B, arrow) with a red and friable mass inside and bleeding (C). Cytology of material obtained by *imprint* and cervical brush techniques showed high cellularity, composed of round cells with marked anisocytosis and anisocariosis (black arrow), loose nuclear chromatin (white arrow), nucleoli evident (yellow arrow), and cytoplasmic vacuolization (blue arrow) (Rapid Panotype®, 40×).

A 2-years-old mixed Pitbull female dog, unspayed (Fig. 1A), weighing 21 kg, was attended, who the owner belonged to a community in social vulnerability. The patient had a history of a progressive volume increase of vulvar region for about 4 to 5 months, local licking and excessive bleeding. The last estrus was about 6 months before and the owner suspected of another heat. The patient had free access to the streets and lived with a spayed female and an unneutered male puppy, both healthy.

On physical exam, only oral and conjunctival mucous were slightly pale. Cardiac, respiratory, gastrointestinal, and hydration parameters were normal. It was found alterations on genital apparatus. There were an intense increase in vulvar volume (Fig. 1B) with a reddish and friable mass internally, with a hemorrhagic aspect (Fig. 1C). The clinical suspicions were vaginal prolapse, vaginal hyperplasia, transmissible venereal tumor (TVT), and cutaneous lymphoma.

Samples of the internal vulvar mass were collected by *imprint* and cervical brush techniques for cytopathology. Its showed numerous oval cells with large nuclei, loose chromatin, and cytoplasmic vacuolization, characteristic of TVT (Fig. 1D). The only hematological and serologic findings were anemia and

fibrinogen increase. It was not possible to collect urine for urinalysis.

The patient was treated with antineoplastic vincristine sulfate (Tecnocris®, *Zodiac Produtos Farmacêuticos S.A.*, 0.75 mg/m², weekly, intravenously). New clinical and laboratory tests before each chemotherapy were performed. A total of three chemotherapy sessions resulted in complete remission of the mass and absence of bleeding (Fig. 1E).

TVT is transmitted by the implantation of tumor cells, mainly by copulating. Considering the socio-economic vulnerability of the owner and the social culture of keeping animals with free access to the streets, we alert to the importance of castration, mainly in females. This blocks estrus ("heat"), preventing copulation with TVT-positive males.

References

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