

(21%, 3/14), and anti-epileptics (29%, 4/14). Mean duration of hospitalisation was 7.4 days (3–12). All cats survived to discharge. 50% (5/10) of cats presented for re-examination showed persistent, but mild, neurological signs. One cat (7%) relapsed following therapy withdrawal.

CONCLUSION

FMUA is an important differential diagnosis of variable neurological signs in cats of any age. The use of MR as a diagnostic tool alongside CSF pleocytosis is highlighted. Prognosis is generally good with immunomodulatory and supportive therapy. More studies are indicated to better understand the aetiology of and optimum treatment for this condition.

Weight loss with a good or increased appetite as a presenting complaint in a feline population: a retrospective study

**Olympia Maria Ioannidi¹,
Petros Frezoulis¹, Dimitrios Kasabalis²,
Konstantina Theodorou¹,
Nektarios Soubasis¹**

¹ Companion Animal Clinic, School of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece

² Clinic of Medicine, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Thessaly, Karditsa, Greece

INTRODUCTION

Weight loss with a good or increased appetite is considered a common presenting complaint occurring in various systemic disorders. The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of this particular symptom as presenting complaint among the cats admitted to a University Teaching Hospital and to investigate the most commonly affected body systems and underlying diseases.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The medical records of cats admitted between 1998 and 2014, due to weight loss with a good or increased appetite were collected. Cats that received appetite stimulants, glucocorticoids or had incomplete medical record were excluded from the study. Data regarding medical history, complete blood count, serum biochemical analysis, serum thyroxine concentration, urinalysis, diagnostic imaging, endoscopy and histopathology findings were recorded.

RESULTS

From a total of 2015 cats admitted during the study period, 61 presented weight loss with a good or increased appetite. Forty eight cats met the inclusion criteria. Nine cats were intact males (19.1%), 19 neutered males (40.4%), 3 intact females (6.4%) and 16 spayed females (34%). DSH (40/48, 83.3%) was the most common breed presented. Mean age on admission was 10.6 years (± 5.2). Most of the cats were classified in senior age group (11–14 years, 39.6%). Median duration of symptoms was 2.5 months (range: 0.5–60). Common presenting complaints were weight loss with a good (34/48, 70.8%) or increased appetite (14/48, 29.2%), chronic vomiting (11/48, 22.9%), polyuria/polydipsia (7/48, 14.6%) and diarrhea (5/48, 10.4%). Frequent physical examination findings were peridental disease (6/48, 12.5%), thickened intestinal loops (5/48, 10.4%), heart murmur (5/48, 10.4%), enlarged mesenteric lymph nodes (5/48, 10.4%), goiter (4/48, 8.3%), ascites (4/48, 8.3%) and dyspnea (4/48, 8.3%).

Clinicopathological abnormalities included, hypoalbuminemia (16/39, 41%), azotemia (16/43, 37.2%), hyperglycemia (14/39, 35.9%), increased alkaline phosphatase (5/32, 15.6%) and alaninoaminotransferase (17/37, 45.9%) activity and hyperphosphatemia (9/35, 25.7%).

The most common disorders were endocrine (14/48, 29.2%), gastrointestinal (11/48, 22.9%), respiratory (5/48, 10.4%), oncologic (7/48, 14.6%) and renal (6/48, 12.5%). A final diagnosis was reached in 34/48 (70.8%) cats, while 7 (14.6%) had two concurrent diseases. The most frequent diagnosis were diabetes mellitus (7/34, 20.6%), hyperthyroidism (7/34, 20.6%) and triaditis (3/34, 8.8%).

CONCLUSION

The results of the study reveal that weight loss with a good or increased appetite was not a frequent presenting complaint in this population. The most common body systems affected were the endocrine and the gastrointestinal.