ULTRASONOGRAPHICAL ASPECTS OF DIFFERENT FRACTURES IN DOGS AND CATS BEFORE AND AFTER THE SURGERY

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SUMMARY

The musculoskeletal ultrasonography can be used to diagnose and appreciate the fractures as a valuable alternative during the diagnosis process and the post surgery evolution. Ultrasonography as a means of evaluating fracture healing has been investigated compared with the radiology results. Radiography is insensitive for identifying callus formation in the early stage of healing. In humans medicine musculoskeletal ultrasonography has a big appliance in orthopedics and rheumatology.

This method has a lot of advantages because it is a noninvasive method without putting the patient in contact with any radiations and it is a facile method which can be repeated any time. This method can be used especially for young animals and cats where the differences between the broken compacts are not very significant.

The ultrasonographic investigations were performed using an IXOS VET Sonograph with a triple frequency (7.5 Mhz, 10 Mhz, 12.5 Mhz) linear transducer for 2 cats (2 years old –left radius fracture, 10 weeks old-right femoral fracture) and one dog (5.5 weeks-left femoral fracture). All the cases were investigated radiologically and ultrasonographically before and after the surgery and the results were compared.

From both ultrasonographical and radiological exams we have obtained and compared valuable information about the fractures, their type and position and about the osteosynthesis results. The callus formation was evaluated in all the cases with the two methods.

We can conclude that musculoskeletal ultrasonography can be a useful alternative especially for the young animals. It is a good method to evaluate a callus formation, beginning with the posttraumatic haematoma stage.

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