

Cloacal Prolapses in Anurans: A Ten-Year Retrospective Review

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Session #216

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A retrospective review of tissue prolapses through the cloaca in anurans at the National Aquarium from January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2014 was conducted. Electronic medical records were searched for the key word “prolapse.” Seventy-six individual anurans of 20 species that presented with one or more prolapses through the cloaca were identified (predominately Dendrobatidae, Hylidae, and Bufonidae). The incidence rate was approximately 1% per year. A case was defined as a cloacal prolapse with no history of prolapse in the prior 30 days. Ninety-seven cases were identified. There were 36% (35/97) found dead or euthanized the same day as presentation and 64% (62/97) that survived the first day of presentation. Of these cases, 16% (10/62) died within 14 days, 18% (11/62) died between 15 and 60 days, and 66% (41/62) were alive at 60 days. In the 60 day survival group, 88% (36/41) were cases with a single prolapse and 12% (5/41) were cases with multiple prolapses. The prolapsed tissue was clinically evaluated as predominantly intestinal/cloacal tissue, with fewer instances of urogenital tissue. Prolapse treatment included varying combinations of osmotic and manual reduction, fluid therapy, antibiotics, anthelmintics, anti-inflammatories, nutritional support, and gastroprotectants. Concurrent diseases identified ante- or post-mortem included gastrointestinal nematodiasis or mycosis, enterocolitis, cloacitis, intussusception, intestinal torsion or perforation, renal disease, cystitis, lymphatic edema, and skin erosions. Repeated prolapse events within a 30-day period were associated with decreased 60-day survival.