Successful medical management of long term pyometra in a Boston terrier bitch
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A three-year-old intact female Boston terrier was referred to the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at UC Davis with a 25 day history of intermittent vaginal discharge and reluctance to run agility as usual. She had received antibiotics and intravenous fluids from the referring veterinarian, and was hospitalized briefly at her local veterinary clinic after an episode of collapse, vomiting, and fever.

On presentation the bitch was bright, alert, and responsive, with vitals within normal limits. Ultrasound revealed a fluid-filled uterus (1.5 cm) with significant thickening of the uterine wall (1 cm) and evidence of cystic changes. The bitch was a valuable breeding animal, so medical management was elected over ovariohysterectomy. Treatment was performed using a cloprostenol and cabergoline protocol that minimized the dose of prostaglandin necessary. Multiple rechecks showed improvement of the pyometra. The evident cystic changes resolved over time and six months later she was successfully bred by trans-cervical insemination and carried two healthy puppies to term.

Traditionally, the treatment of choice for pyometra is ovariohysterectomy, but medical treatment using progesterone receptor antagonists (aglepristone and mifepristone), prostaglandins (dinoprost and cloprostenol), dopamine agonists (cabergoline), or different combinations of these drugs have been reported with success.\(^1\)\(^-\)\(^5\) Reported success rates vary greatly, as the studies are small and medical management has generally been reserved for either cases with mild to moderate pyometra or severely affected bitches where surgery is not a viable option (including cases with peritonitis).

This case demonstrates that medical management of pyometra can be a successful alternative to ovariohysterectomy, even in cases of long duration, allowing for preservation of fertility in reproductively valuable females.

References