Habronemiasis in a 20-year old gelded American Pony
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A 20-year old gelded pony presented with paraphimosis and a swollen, distended prepuce first observed two months previously. A 12 x 20 cm ulcerated mass was located along the internal and external lamina of the preputial fold. Differential diagnoses included neoplasia (squamous cell carcinoma) and habronemiasis. Histopathology of a 10mm punch biopsy of the preputial mass was consistent with habronemiasis. No evidence of neoplasia was present.

Musca domestica (house fly), is a common intermediate host for the stomach worm, Habronema muscae. Habronemiasis is the result of the dead or dying larvae of Habronema muscae causing a hypersensitive reaction.\textsuperscript{1,2} Clinical signs consist of proliferative granulomatous tissue are most often found on the prepuce, external genitalia, ventral abdomen, and limbs.\textsuperscript{2} Treatment options include surgical debulking, topical or systemic corticosteroids to reduce inflammation-associated tissue proliferation, fly control, topical preparations containing larvicidal, antimicrobials, anti-inflammatory ingredients, and cryotherapy.\textsuperscript{1,2}

Due to location and size of the mass on the prepuce, surgical management was elected. A partial phallectomy and en bloc preputial resection was performed. Moderate post-operative hemorrhage occurred from the corpus spongiosum at the surgical site. Hemorrhage persisted post-operatively during and immediately following urination. A temporary perineal urethrostomy was performed to allow healing of the corpus spongiosum at the site of phallectomy. Additional treatments included intravenous aminocaproic acid, intravenous fluids, flunixin meglumine, 1% diclofenac sodium gel, gentamicin, phenylbutazone, procaine penicillin G, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, and moxidectin-praziquantel gel. The prognosis for this patient is good, and swelling and hemorrhage continued to decrease while in the hospital.

This case is significant because it illustrates the importance of proper diagnostics when approaching a preputial mass. Proper fly control and prevention is important to protect from reproductive loss due to habronemiasis. It also is a good illustration of the diagnosis and surgical treatment of preputial habronemiasis.

Keywords: Habronemiasis, penis, prepuce, phallectomy, mass

References