

‘Alabama Rot’

Veterinary Information Sheet

Idiopathic cutaneous and renal glomerular vasculopathy, otherwise known as CRGV or Alabama rot is a disease that has been known about since the late 1980's. It was initially thought to only affect Greyhounds and the dogs reported with the disease in the USA presented with kidney injury and/or skin lesions. The aetiology of the disease remains unknown.

Affected dogs typically present with a lesion(s) on the distal limb although lesions have also been seen on the face and ventrum. The skin lesions may initially appear as superficial erosions and may progress to full thickness ulceration. Lesion size has ranged from 0.5 to 5cm in diameter. There is no apparent breed, age or sex predilection. Cases have been identified across the whole of the UK since November 2012 and some dogs have survived.

At initial presentation with a skin lesion(s) dogs are typically otherwise asymptomatic, but over the subsequent one to nine days they develop clinical signs referable to acute kidney injury (AKI). Some patients will present with skin lesions and AKI concurrently and rarely dogs present with AKI prior to the development of skin lesions.

You may see clients concerned that their dog has CRGV. Some veterinary surgeons have been offering urinalysis and/or serum biochemistry or urea and creatinine concentration measurement at initial presentation of a dog with a skin lesion of unknown cause. Results may be within the normal reference range at initial presentation; however, it will provide a baseline and can be followed up with serial testing over the next two to four days.

Blood work in affected dogs will reveal azotaemia and possibly thrombocytopenia, mild anaemia and hyperbilirubinaemia. Urinalysis will reveal dilute urine and possibly glucosuria and casts.

It is a relatively small number of dogs that seem to have been affected by this disease and it is important to highlight that most skin lesions will not be caused by this disease. It is also important to note that most dogs with acute kidney injury will have another underlying cause.

If you are concerned that a case you have been presented with may be suffering from CRGV then please feel free to contact Anderson Moores Veterinary Specialists (01962 767920; medicine@andersonmoores.com) for further advice. We are collating national data on all possible cases and continue to work with a number of National Authorities. We can provide histopathology free of charge on suspected cases but please contact us before sending tissue.

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