ANZCVS 2012 Abstract

RETROSPECTIVE STUDY OF 180 CATS PRESENTING WITH ANAEMIA

RM Korman¹, N Hetzel¹, TG Knowles¹, AH Harvey², S Tasker¹

¹University of Bristol, Langford, UK, ²International Society of Feline Medicine, Feline Advisory Bureau, Wiltshire, UK

Background: Feline anaemia occurs frequently yet common underlying diseases or prognostic factors remain undetermined.

Aims: Aims were to identify presenting findings, underlying diseases and prognostic factors in anaemic cats.

Methods: Records were reviewed and classified by aetiology of anaemia development, DAMNITV category and anaemia severity.

Results: Criteria identified 180 cats. Lethargy (118; 65.6%) and inappetance (87; 48.3%) were common. Sixty-four (35.6%) cats had mild anaemia (packed cell volume (PCV)/haematocrit (HCT) 20-24.9%), 58 (32.2%) moderate (PCV/HCT 14-19.9%), 23 (12.8%) severe (PCV/HCT 11-13.9%) and 35 (19.4%) very severe (PCV/HCT <10.9%) anaemia. Bone marrow (BM) abnormalities were more common (95; 52.8%) than haemorrhage (37; 20.6%) or haemolysis (19; 10.6%) by aetiology. Infectious diseases were more frequent (39; 21.7%) than neoplasia (36; 20%), metabolic (21; 11.7%), trauma (15; 8.3%), miscellaneous (14; 7.8%), inflammatory (11; 6.1%) or immune-mediated (11; 6.1%) by DAMNITV category. Anaemia severity was significantly associated with aetiology ($\chi^2=19.9$, $P=0.003$), with BM abnormalities having more severe anaemia, but not with DAMNITV category ($\chi^2=33.852$, $P=0.153$). Most cats (112, 62.2%) survived to discharge, 55 (30.6%) were euthanased and 13 (7.2%) died. Survival was not significantly associated with anaemia severity ($\chi^2=4.15$, $P=0.248$) but was with aetiology ($\chi^2=6.070$, $P=0.046$) and DAMNITV category ($\chi^2=19.998$, $P=0.010$); cats with haemolysis or immune-mediated disease were more likely to survive. DAMNITV category ($P=0.011$) and age ($P=0.082$) were associated with survival on Cox regression analysis.

Conclusions: Anaemia arose mostly from infection or neoplasia. Anaemia severity didn’t affect survival. Younger cats or cats with immune-mediated disease or haemolysis were more likely to survive.