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Subject: Cytology report on Checkers Dunn
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Cytology Report

Date: 8/5/09

Patient: "Checkers" Dunn

Clinic: SonoVet, Inc.

Doctor: Dr. Marty Henderson

History: The slides submitted were collected by aspiration from the spleen of a 10-year-old male neutered domestic longhaired cat. The cat has vomiting, icterus, anemia, and neutropenia, but the platelet count is normal. On sonographic evaluation, the spleen is normal to mildly increased in size and is of a normal shape. It has a heterogeneous 'moth-eaten' echogenicity with multifocal small hypoechoic nodules throughout the parenchyma. The spleen is aspirated and slides are submitted.

Cytologic Description: The slide from the spleen shows some normal parenchymal cells, consisting of small lymphocytes and rare small histiocytic cells, with a few larger lymphoid cells. However, most of the parenchyma appears to be replaced/infiltrated by small round cells with round nuclei that are consistently eccentrically placed that have a moderate amount of moderately to deeply basophilic cytoplasm. Some of these cells show binucleation, and a moderate number of cells with anisokaryosis are seen, but most of the nuclei are of uniform size. Occasional cells have multiple nucleoli of varying shapes.

Interpretation: Extramedullary plasmacytoma of the spleen

Comments: This tumor is definitely a plasmacytoma that seems to be diffusely infiltrating the spleen. If the spleen was extremely enlarged, I would have definitely strongly considered splenectomy (so that splenic rupture would not occur), followed by chemotherapy. However, since the spleen is only mildly increased in size, splenectomy is not necessary and its size may be monitored to check for response to treatment. Most cats with this tumor have extrasplenic involvement (liver, lymph nodes, bone marrow, or intestine) as well, so removal of the spleen would not be necessary or helpful in this case. The pancytopenia is very worrisome, and may preclude chemotherapy; a bone marrow evaluation would be necessary to see if chemotherapy is even reasonable. The icterus and increased bilirubin level would suggest that there is likely to be involvement of the liver as well.

Although we usually begin with a chemotherapy protocol of melphalan and prednisone, some cats with this tumor respond better to either chlorambucil/prednisone or cyclophosphamide/prednisone. There are some patients with plasmacytoma in which there is no chemotherapy responsiveness, however.

Cytologist: Claudia Barton, DVM, Diplomate ACVIM (Oncology, Internal Medicine)