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Ophthalmology Snapshot

Nalinee Tuntivanich

History

A seven-year old, male domestic short hair cat was presented at the Ophthalmology Clinic, Animal Teaching Hospital, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Chulalongkorn University. The owner incidentally noticed irregular pupil of the right eye two months ago. The cat had been prescribed from a private

veterinary clinic with topical triple antibiotics.

Ophthalmic examinations revealed positive menace responses, as well as dazzle reflexes. Abnormalities of ocular adnexa were not evident. No ocular pain was involved. Schirmer tear test I values were within normal limit. Intraocular pressure of the right eye was 23, while it was 18 on the left eye.



Figure 1 Photographs of the cat representing irregular pupil.
(For better quality of photographs, please visit the TJVM website)

Question

What is your diagnosis?

Please turn to next page for the answer.

Answer**Iris cyst**

Figure 2 Photograph of the cat's eye; (A) left eye with normal ocular structure and (B) right eye on the oblique view demonstrating black iris cyst originated from the pupillary margin.

Comments

Iris cyst or iridociliary or uveal cysts in cats are mostly benign and acquired. Siamese cat is the breed predilection. Iris cyst is an abnormality of the pigmented epithelium on the iris surface that is filled with aqueous humor, then forming a spherical mass. It can attach to various parts of the eye or float within the anterior chamber. It varies considerably in size, color and number. Trauma and anterior uveitis are usually involved if the condition is acquired.

It is important to differentiate iris cysts from early iris melanoma. Thick wall of the cyst is not usually illuminated by bright light, as compared to melanoma. If iris cyst is large, it can interfere with normal aqueous flow, damage corneal endothelium or

impair vision. Semiconductor diode laser coagulation is an effective and noninvasive method to treat iris cysts with no recurrence.

Reference

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- Wilkie DA, Gemensky-Metzler AJ and Cook CS 2004. The use of semiconductor diode laser for deflation and coagulation of anterior uveal cysts in dogs, cats and horses: a report of 20 cases. *Vet Ophthalmol.*7(5): 360-368.