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Application and diagnostic evaluation of surgical  
pathology of small animal dermatoses

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The frequency of biopsy has not been so high in the case of small animal skin disease, although they may be known to be valuable in diagnoses of non-neoplastic as well as neoplastic dermatoses. There are might be some reasons as follows. 1). Sedation methods and choice of sedatives in a surgical operation for biopsy, 2). Understandings of the usefulness of biopsy in clinician and the limited utility of histopathological diagnosis in cases, 3). Lack of understanding of special structure of the skin by dermatopathologist

We evaluated small animal skin diseases in 36 dogs and 3 cats including 18 neoplastic and 21 non-neoplastic cases that referred to animal hospital to Miyazaki University. Tissue samples from diseased skin were fixed with either Methanol Carnoy or usual formalin fixation and routinely processed for histopathological examination. Two or three pieces of skin samples including border between lesion and non-lesion up to subcutaneous of the area in an animal were taken with a surgical knife and punch biopsy tool. Histopathological diagnosis was performed based on histopathological patterns, classification and

finding related with clinical data including distribution, season, history, symptom and so forth. Based on these data, suggestive disease and diagnosis were done.

Surgical pathology was very useful for prognosis in neoplastic dermatoses. In the 21 non-neoplastic cases, five were clinically valuable and seven were clinically suggestive. Three were supportive for clinical diagnosis, three were useful in diagnosis by exception of irrelevant causes of the disease and three were impossible to diagnosis.

In the present studies, the findings of surgical histopathology was very suggestive for diagnosis of the skin diseases and in systemic examination would help reasonable approach of medical treatment.

#### References

- 1) Muller, G. H. et al. *Small Animal Dermatology*, 4th ed.
- 2) Scott, D. W. et al. *Small Animal Dermatology*, 5th ed.