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DIAGNOSTIC ULTRASONOGRAPHY IN DOGS AND CATS

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Ultrasonography (USG) was employed in the clinical diagnosis of abdominal and thoracic disorders in dogs and cats. The equipment used in this study included an electronic linear ultrasound scanner and an electronic linear-convex ultrasound scanner (EUB-25M and EUB-450, Hitachi Medical Corp.) with linear and convex transducers from 3.5 to 7.5 MHz. Ninety dogs and thirty cats admitted to the Veterinary Hospital of Hokkaido University, as well as 10 other dogs and 2 other cats were used.

In the liver and biliary system, USG offered decisive information on diffuse diseases (congestion, cirrhosis and fatty liver). USG was useful to observe the internal structure and the correlation with the surrounding tissue in masses (cysts and neoplasia) and provided information about the wall and the inside of the gallbladder.

In the case of an enlarged spleen noticed with radiography or other methods, splenosonography was useful for differentiating splenomegaly from areaus lesions.

Nephrosonography also enabled the differentiation of many areaus lesions (hydronephrosis, cyst, calculus and calcification), and was useful to recognize the progress of fibrosis in chronic renal insufficiency.

By USG of the urinary bladder, information concerned with the mucosa and the lumen as well as the wall was acquired easily.

The examination of the prostate by USG was easier than by radiography.

In the female reproductive organs, pyometra, ovarian cysts and uterine myoma were examined. USG was also valuable for diagnosing ovarian disorders difficult to identify by radiography.

For cardiac disorders, morphologic information was obtained with two-dimensional echocardiography on cardiac chamber dilatation and hypertrophy of the wall, functional information on cardiac contraction with M-mode echocardiography, and hemodynamic information with doppler echocardiography of regurgitation.

Therefore USG was a useful examination technique for the diagnosis of various diseases in small animals.