

## Ophthalmology Snapshot

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### *History*

A 6-month-old French Bulldog had been presented with left eye blepharospasm. The puppy had been treated with topical antibiotics for weeks from the local veterinarian. However, blepharospasm still persisted. Ophthalmic examination from distance showed mild conjunctival hyperemia. Excessive tear was observed around the eyeball. Close ophthalmic examinations revealed prominent conjunctival blood

vessels at the outer portion of the nictitating membrane. Clump of abnormal hairs were identified at the ventro-nasal region of the palpebral conjunctiva, next to eyelid margin. Schirmer tear test 1 level of the left eye was 25 mm wetness, while it was 16 on the right.

Menace responses and dazzle reflexes were positive in both eyes. Intra ocular pressures were within normal limits. Corneal fluorescein staining test was negative. The cornea was clear.



**Figure 1** The left eye from distanced examination.



**Figure 2** The left eye from close examination.

(For better quality of photographs, please visit the TJVM website)

### *Question*

Give ophthalmic diagnosis.

Please turn to next page for the answer.

**Answer**

Conjunctivo-palpebral dermoid

**Comments**

Dermoid is a formation of normal cutaneous tissue at abnormal locations. It is believed that dermoid is derived from abnormal differentiation of the surface ectoderm during embryonic development. Its typical characteristics is skin with hairs. The most common form of ocular dermoid in dogs is conjunctivo-corneal dermoid. Conjunctivo-palpebral dermoid usually arises from the temporal palpebral conjunctival fornix. It is possibly associated with the absence of the palpebral margin at the junction of the conjunctival and the cutaneous portion of the disorganized skin tissue. Thus, it is rare in this present case to observe the dermoid at the nasal region. Approach to ocular examination is very important. Adequate restraint is essential during the ophthalmic examination. Close examination using focusing flash light with ophthalmic loupe provides good examination of small lesion at the ocular surface.

If dermoid is left untreated, dogs will be suffered from chronic irritation at conjunctiva, cornea and third eyelid. To avoid the regrowth, the dermoid including hair follicles must be excised completely. In case of large lesion, care must be taken to conserve palpebral function and remove any risk of iatrogenic ocular irritation.

**Reference**

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- Lee J, Kim M, Kim I, Kim Y, Kim M, 2005. Surgical correction of corneal dermoid in a dog *J. Vet. Sci.* 6(4), 369-370.