

Ophthalmology Snapshot

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History

An 8 month-old female domestic short haired cat was presented at the Ophthalmology Clinic, Small Animal Teaching Hospital, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Chulalongkorn University with a major compliant of left conjunctival mass. The cat had been abandoned when she was a kitten, and then rescued to be an in-house cat. The mass had gradually enlarged by time.

Results from basic ophthalmic examinations were in table 1. The right eye was normal. Red mass appeared on the left eye at the temporal part of the upper palpebral conjunctiva (Fig 1). Lid fissure could not be closed completely. No discharge was noticed, and so were respiratory tract symptoms.

Exam	OD	OS
STT 1	12	4
Menace response	+	+
Dazzle reflex	+	+
PLR	+	+
Blink reflex	+	+ (incomplete)

Table 1 Basic ophthalmic examinations.



Figure 1 A photograph of the pink-to-red mass on the left upper conjunctiva.
(For better quality, figures can be viewed in the TJVM website)

Question

What would you consider for a treatment?

Please turn to the next page for answers

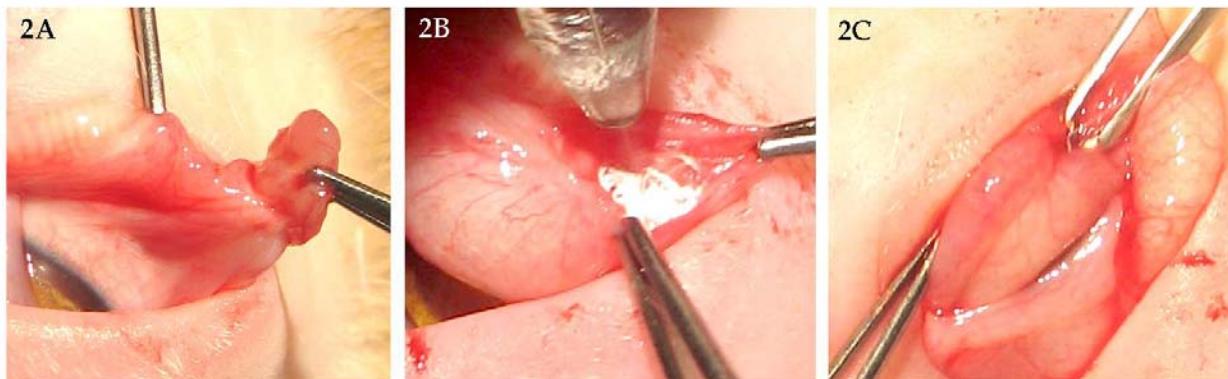
Answers**Removal of the mass**

Figure 2 Treatment: The conjunctival mass was excised (2A). Cryotherapy was performed at the conjunctival floor where the mass was located. The mass was submitted for pathological diagnosis (2B). After the conjunctiva had been completely thawed, the wound was sutured (2C).

(For better quality, figures can be viewed in the TJVM website)

Biopsy result

Severe ulcerative suppurative conjunctivitis

Comments

When conjunctiva is exposed to infectious organisms, it becomes edematous, hyperemic or keratinized, if the infection is prolonged or secondary. Feline conjunctivitis is usually bilateral and caused by several organisms; such as *Chlamydophila felis*, *Mycoplasma felis*, and Feline Herpes virus-1. Profound investigations should additionally be performed for accurate diagnosis.

In this case, the lesion was a localized, mass-like appearance that was possibly caused by trauma or neoplasia. Respiratory symptoms were not involved. There were no other ophthalmic signs associated with the lesion except for mild conjunctivitis surrounding the mass, perhaps due to incomplete lid closure. The mass was fairly firm in consistency. Biopsy of the entire mass was successfully performed in combination with cryotherapy.

Non-neoplastic conjunctival mass could be associated with pathogenic bacterial infection. Inflammatory nodule contains numerous inflammatory cells. Tear film deficiency or instability may play a role in pathogenesis of feline conjunctivitis.

References

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- Lim, C.C. and Cullen, C.L. 2005. Schirmer tear test values and tear film break-up times in cats with conjunctivitis. *Vet Ophthalmol.* 8(5); 305-310.