

Veterinary Healthcare Team Fact Sheet: Melanoma of the Mouth

Background:

- Locally invasive with 80-90% metastatic rate to lymph nodes and lungs.

Clinical signs

- Dysphagia, sialorrhoea, oral bleeding, malodorous breath. Pigmented or non-pigmented mass in the mouth.

Diagnosis

- Cytology/histopathology/immunohistochemistry.

Clinical Staging

- 3 view thoracic radiographs and cytology of lymph nodes. CT of head, neck and thorax is more sensitive for identification of metastasis and aids surgical planning.

Prognosis

- Variable, depends on stage and treatment; from a few months to over a year.

Local treatment

- Surgery is preferred for small non-metastatic tumours.
- Mandibulectomy or maxillectomy +/- lymphadenectomy are often required. Response rate of 80-90% for radiotherapy.

Negative prognostic factors

- Large unresectable masses, presence of metastasis, MI higher than $4 \times 10 \text{ hpf}$, High Ki67.

Systemic treatment

- Carboplatin chemotherapy.
- Xenogeneic DNA vaccination.



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