

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 4x10hpf, High Ki67.

Systemic treatment

- ▶ Carboplatin chemotherapy.
- ▶ Xenogeneic DNA vaccination.

