Conservative Management of INTERVERTEBRAL DISC DISEASE (IVDD)



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IVDD Conservative Management

- Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD)
 - Hansen type 1 IVDD Chondroid degeneration
 Short legged long back dogs
 - ► 3-7 years of age,
 - ► Cervical or thoracolumbar spine



Smolders et al 2013

IVDD Conservative Management

- Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD)
 - Hansen type 1 IVDD Chondroid degeneration
 - The (transition zone) TZ of newborn CD dogs is relatively wide, occupying most of the annulus fibrosus (AF), and its cells lack orientation

► The change from a gelatinous, semi-fluid Nucleus Pulposus to a drier NP can already be observed at 3–4 months of age.







- Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD)
- Hansen type 1 IVDD Chondroid degeneration
 - ▶ By 1 year of age 31.2% of cervical, 62.5% of thoracic, and 43.8% of lumbar Discs in CD dogs show macroscopic signs of disc calcification
 - Degeneration of the AF in CD dogs always occurs after NP degeneration



Smolders et al 2013

IVDD Conservative Management

- Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD)
 - Hansen type 1 IVDD Chondroid degeneration
 Spinal cord damage is related to the RATE of extrusion, duration of compression, & amount of extruded material
 - Mild to sovere pourelegical deficits
 - Mild to severe neurological deficits



IVDD Conservative Management

► Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD)

- ► Hansen type 2: "Fibroid degeneration"
 - ► The German Shepherd, Doberman, Rottweiler, Labrador Retriever, Dalmatian
 - ▶ 6-8 years of age,

Smolders et al 2013

 Caudal cervical or lumbosacral spine, although the thoracolumbar spine can also be affected











- ► Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD)
- ► Hansen type 2:
- Causes PROGRESSIVE signs of paraparesis, often with some degree of back pain, taking weeks, to months, or sometimes years in development.



IVDD Conservative Management

- Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD)
- ► ANNPE Acute Non-compressive Nucleus Pulposus Extrusion
 - ► High velocity extrusion resulting in contusion to the spinal cord without sustained compression
 - Severe, sudden neurological deficits
 - ► Affects any breed (& Border Collie...)
 - Reported only in dogs > 1year of age Mean age of 7 years
 - Associated with exercise or trauma
 - Vocalization at time of incident
- De Riso 2015; DeDecker & Fenn 2018



IVDD Conservative Management

- Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD)
- ► ANNPE Acute Non-compressive Nucleus Pulposus Extrusion
 - ► Henke et al, 2013 reviewed 31 medical records & MRI reports of dogs with traumatic disc extrusion.
 - ▶ 71% of the dogs had disc extrusion without evidence of spinal cord compression



IVDD Conservative Management

- Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD)
- ANNPE Acute Non-compressive Nucleus Pulposus Extrusion
 - ► Localization T3 L3: particularly between T12 L2
 - Cervical spine can occur (and does more so than FCEs)
 - ► Lateralization occurs in 62 65% of cases
 - Spinal Hyperalgesia is reported in 21 57% of dogs with ANNPE



De Riso 2015; DeDecker & Fenn 2018

IVDD Conservative Management

- Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD)
- HNPE- Hydrated Nucleus Pulposus Extrusion
 - Extrusion of hydrated nucleus pulposus through a single fissure in the dorsal annulus fibrosus secondary to sudden changes in IVD pressure and biomechanics.
 - More often in cervical spine
 - Older dogs (median age: 9 years)
 - ► Spontaneous onset
 - Rarely associated with exercise
 - Less hyperalgesia than other types

De Decker & Fenn 2018

IVDD Conservative Management

- ► Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD)
- ► HNPE- Hydrated Nucleus Pulposus Extrusion
 - Rapid improvements after initiation of medical treatment could suggest that spinal cord contusion plays a major role in the pathophysiology of HNPE
 - The need for surgical intervention is debatable

De Decker & Fenn 2018; Borlace et al 2017







IVDD Conservative Management Intervertebral Disc Disease (not-IVDD) FCE - Fibrocartilaginous Embolism Treatment:

► Conservative

DeRisio 2015



IVDD Conservative Management

- ► Okay... so it's an IVDD Case...
- ▶ Of some kind...
- ▶ Or an FCE...
- You need to manage it conservatively
- What do you do?



IVDD Conservative Management

- Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD)
 - ► CONSERVATIVE MANAGEMENT
 - Physiotherapy / Rehabilitation (plus Medication)
 - CAN give good results
 - ► For ANNEPE, HNPE, Hansen's Type 2, FCE's or
 - ► WHEN surgery is not an option for Hansen's Type 1 IVDD
 - ► (Finances, Age, Owner opinions, Medical conditions, etc)



IVDD Conservative Management

- Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD)
 - ► CONSERVATIVE MANAGEMENT
 - Should be GOAL oriented
 - Should address the underlying pathology
 - Should address function
 - Should include routine re-evaluation of the neurologic status of the animal by the therapy provider.

- ▶ GOAL # 1
- Pain Management & Healing of the Disc / Spinal Cord & Reducing Inflammation
 - Anti-inflammatory OR Corticosteroid
 PLUS Adjunctive Pain Medication
 - Modalities
 - ► Laser, Microcurrent, TENS, Heat or Ice
 - Acupuncture



Traction & Mobilizations



IVDD Non-Surgical Management

- Laser Therapy for PAIN Management
 - Optimal dosages for pain relief...
 - ► Optimum dose per point for an 820-830nm laser was 5.9 Joules
 - ► Using a 904nm super-pulsed laser, it was 2.2 Joules.
 - ▶ Number of reps and Rx / week were variable.
 - Immediate positive effects that can last up to 3 months!



Chow et al 2009

IVDD Non-Surgical Management

Laser Therapy for PAIN Management

- Optimal dosages for pain relief...
 - ► LLLT at high doses (7.5 J/cm2) <u>at the target tissue</u> in the first 72 hours (to reduce inflammation & pain)
 - Followed by the lower doses (2 J/cm2) <u>at target tissues</u> in subsequent days (to promote tissue repair)





- Laser Therapy for Spinal Cord Healing
 It helps!
 - Laser: 810nm x 150mW x 1589 J/cm2 daily (administering LLLT for 2997 seconds/day) x 14 days) – Byrnes & Wu studies
 Speculated only 6% power penetration to the spinal cord
 - ► Laser: 780nm x 250mW x 30 min/day x 14 days
 - Significantly increased axonal number and distance regrowth.
 - Suppressed immune cell activation and cytokine/chemokine expression.
 - expression.Increased the length & number of axons & better functional recovery
 - Return of some aspects of function to baseline levels.
 - Byrnes et al 2005; Wu et al 2009, Rochkind et al 2002

IVDD Non-Surgical Management

- Laser Therapy for Spinal Cord Healing
 - Decisions about dosing
 - ► Only 2.45% of 980nm laser light will reach a deeper nerve when lasering from the surface.

► So, laser with HIGH doses!!



Anders et al 2014

Draper et al 2012

IVDD Non-Surgical Management

- ► Laser Therapy for Spinal Cord Healing
 - Dog Study! LLLT after hemilaminectomy for a thoracolumbar disc herniation
 - 200mW, 810nm x 1 minute per area (5 diode cluster probe) = 12 J/cm2
 - Median time to walking was 3.5 days in the LLLT group and 14 in the control group







Tan et al 2006

IVDD Non-Surgical Management

- ► HEALING
- Pulsed Electromagnetic Field Therapy
 - ▶ Sparse literature...
 - Enhances motor recovery in cats after spinal cord injury.



Crowe et al 2003

IVDD Non-Surgical Management



- ► TENS for PAIN Management
 - Different frequencies of TENS produce analgesia via different mechanisms
 - ► High Frequency Tens (>80Hz)
 - Stimulates large diameter nerves & blocks nociceptive activity in smaller nerves
 - Increases β endorphins & methionin-enkephalins
 - ► Low Frequency Tens (<10Hz)
 - Stimulates release of endogenous opiates
 - Reduces dorsal horn neuron activity, nociception and the consequent pain

Watson & Lawrence 2016



- ▶ Hot & Cold for PAIN Management
- Heat decreases pain by:
 - ► Removal of chemical irritants from nociceptors (reducing pain input to the CNS)
- Cold affects the body by:
 - Decreasing the conduction velocity of primary afferent fibres and simultaneously increasing pain threshold and pain tolerance
 - Reduce muscle tone & spasticity & Vasoconstriction of blood vessels



IVDD Non-Surgical Management

- ► Acupuncture PAIN Management & RECOVERY
 - ► Electro-Acupuncture might provide some mild benefit in regard to severity of postoperative pain in dogs undergoing hemilaminectomy because of acute thoracolumbar intervertebral disk disease.



Laim et al 2009; Han et al 2010

decreasing relapse.

IVDD Non-Surgical Management

- Acupuncture PAIN Management & RECOVERY
 - Electroacupuncture combined with standard Western medical treatment was effective and resulted in shorter time to recover ambulation and deep pain perception than did use of Western treatment alone in dogs with signs of thoracolumbar intervertebral disk disease.
 - Electroacupuncture was more effective than decompression surgery for recovery of ambulation and improvement in neurologic deficits in dogs with long-standing severe deficits attributable to thoracolumbar (VDD.



Hayashi et al 2007; Joaquim et al 2010



Laim et al 2009; Han et al 2010; Hayashi et al 2007; Joaquim et al 2010



Fung 2009

So... you can still have these effects even if you don't do acupuncture!





- ► Improved ROM (lumbar flexion)
- ► No change for back extensor endurance

Karimi et al 2017; Fritz et al 2014



IVDD Non-Surgical Management

- ▶ Traction for HEALING & PAIN... Animal Models!
 - Traction treatment is effective in enhancing nutrition supply and promoting disc cell proliferation of the degraded discs.
 Porcine study – In Vitro
 - Gentle traction helped maintain disc height of degenerated discs, and it might be a potential intervention to slow down the process of degeneration
 - Rat study In Vivo



Kuo et al 2014; Lai & Chow 2010;



Traction for HEALING & PAIN
 In clinic & home program (with detailed instruction)



IVDD Non-Surgical Management

- ► Traction for HEALING & PAIN
 - ► In clinic & home program (with detailed instruction)



IVDD Non-Surgical Management

- ► Traction for HEALING & PAIN
 - ► In clinic & home program (with detailed instruction) Tail traction







Mobilizations – for HEALING & PAIN

- ► NEUROPHYSIOLOGICAL effects:
 - ▶ Reduce pain
 - Inhibition of reflex muscle contractions
 - ► Hysteresis effect...
 - ▶ Reduce nociceptor activity
 - ► Reduce pressure in the joint(s)
 - ► Reduces nerve firing to/from joints

Zusman 1986: Katavich 1998: Bjornsdottir & Kumar 1997; Zelle et al 2005; Conroy & Hayes 1998; Sterling et al 2001





- Mobilizations for HEALING & PAIN
 - Rotations



- ► Mobilizations for HEALING & PAIN
- Use the side of one hand (at the 2nd phalanx) to medially glide the side (transverse process) of one vertebra and then side bend the animals head 'over' your hand and the vertebra.



Mobilize by rhythmically pushing medially
Pain free motion only – on either side



IVDD Non-Surgical Management

- Mobilizations for HEALING & PAIN
 - ► Thoracic mobilizations Chest Lifts
 - Lumbar mobilizations Abdominal Lifts



IVDD Non-Surgical Management

- Mobilizations for HEALING & PAIN
 - Thoracolumbar or Lumbar FLEXION mobilizations
 - With the dog in standing over your knee or leg, or in side lying with your knee
 - or leg, or in side lying with your knee placed into the abdomen.
 - Passively flex and extend the spine.
 - Always within tolerance







- ▶ GOAL # 2 RETRAINING FUNCTION
 - Neuro Rehab
 - ► Strength Training
 - Coordination Training
 - Movement

There is no "Crate-Rest-Fairy"... Get your patients moving!

IVDD Non-Surgical Management

- ► RETRAINING FUNCTION
- Neuro Rehab
 - ► To re-establish neural pathways & motor control
 - Active spinal movement
 PNF (Proprioceptive Neuromuscular Facilitation)
 - Neuro-Developmental Techniques (NDT)
 - Sensorimotor Techniques
 - Postural Reactions
 - Gait training



Functional Training - Neuro Rehab (i.e. PNF)

PNF Patterning: Do this instead of Passive Range of Motion!



IVDD Non-Surgical Management

Functional Training - Neuro Rehab (i.e. PNF)

Compressions & Distractions









Volitional movements in different positions Retrain proper movement patterns (how to get from position to position)

IVDD Non-Surgical Management

Functional Training - Neuro Rehab – Neurodevelopmental
 "Kick backs" – for foot placement training



IVDD Non-Surgical Management

Functional Training - Neuro Rehab - Neurodevelopmental





Functional Training - Neuro Rehab (Sensorimotor)
 Whole body shake



IVDD Non-Surgical Management



Galea 2012



Functional Training- Standing Practice



IVDD Non-Surgical Management

Functional Training- Standing Practice





Functional Training- Standing Practice



IVDD Non-Surgical Management

Functional Training- Standing Practice
 Electrical Muscle Stimulation







Functional Training- Walking Practice



IVDD Non-Surgical Management

Functional Training- Walking Practice





- ► Conclusion
 - ► Conservative management of Hansen's Disc lesions 1 & 2, ANNEPE, HNPE, & (FCE's) is possible...
 - ► Further research is needed...
 - ▶ But now you have a plan!







Conservative IVDD

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