



COMMON SMALL ANIMAL SCLERAL ABNORMALITIES

■ Douglas Esson, DAVCO

A dermoid (or “choristoma”) represents an area of normal haired skin in an abnormal location on the eye or adnexal tissue. Lesions may affect the tissues of the cornea, episclera and/or eyelids. Changes are congenital so are typically noted soon after the eyes open at 2 weeks of age. Commonly affected breeds include the German Shepherd, the Dachshund & the St Bernard.

The treatment of choice is surgical excision of the abnormal tissue. Once excised these lesions do not recur.

Primary scleritis describes a primary inflammatory disorder of the canine scleral and/or episcleral tissues, which is thought to be immune-mediated in origin. Clinically this condition presents as an inflammatory infiltrate around part or all of the corneoscleral limbus, affecting one or both eyes. Adjacent structures including the uveal tract may be involved & demonstrate clinical inflammation, extending in rare cases to necrotic scleral lesions, uveitis, retinal detachment and/or glaucoma. Commonly affected breeds include the Cocker Spaniel & Boston Terrier. Systemic screening for immune-mediated disorders may be indicated in some cases.

Treatment comprises topical and/or systemic immune-modulatory therapy using corticosteroids and or adjunctive agents such as azathioprine, chlorambucil & cyclosporine. Scleritis can typically be managed, however in most cases, ongoing therapy is required in order to maintain the patient in a disease-free state.

Nodular granulomatous episcleritis (NGE) describes a proliferative inflammatory disorder of the canine scleral and/or episcleral tissues, which is thought to be immune-mediated in origin.

Multiple terms have been used to describe this condition, including; nodular fasciitis, fibrous histiocytoma, pseudotumor & collie-granuloma. Clinically, affected patients display one or more smooth, firm, mass(es) affecting the corneoscleral limbus of one or both eyes, arising most commonly in the superior-temporal region. Commonly affected breeds include the Collie-breeds, Spaniel-breeds & Terrier-breeds. The diagnosis of NGE may be confirmed where indicated by tissue biopsy & histopathology, which typically reveals a proliferation of fibroblasts and a significant infiltration of lymphocytes, plasma cells & histiocytes. Treatment comprises topical



Dermoid



Primary scleritis