



Nodular granulomatous episcleritis



Limbal melanocytoma

and/or systemic immune-modulatory therapy using corticosteroids and or adjunctive agents such as azathioprine, chlorambucil & cyclosporine. In severe cases, lesions may initially be managed by the injection of repository corticosteroids, surgical resection, cryotherapy &/or the application of B-irradiation. NGE can typically be managed, however in most cases, ongoing therapy is required in order to maintain the patient in a disease-free state.

Multiple neoplastic processes may affect the scleral & episcleral tissues, notably melanocytoma/melanoma, haemangioma/haemangiosarcoma, lymphoma and squamous cell carcinoma.

Limbal (“epibulbar”) melanocytomas are the most frequently encountered and may affect dogs or cats. In rare instances, these lesions may display malignant characteristics including significant anaplasia and/or metastasis. Lesions typically present as well defined, raised and pigmented masses with a smooth surface. Progressive enlargement typically results in corneoscleral and/or intraocular invasion and may ultimately lead to glaucoma and/or retinal detachment. Limbal melanocytomas should be differentiated from extension of more malignant uveal melanomas. Commonly affected breeds include the Labrador Retriever, Golden Retriever and German Shepherd. The diagnosis of melanocytoma is made based on clinical findings, supported by histopathology, following incisional or excisional biopsy. These lesions are typically relatively benign and frequently appear to be localized to ocular tissues only. Nevertheless, the evaluation of systemic health and/or involvement via local lymph node aspiration, three-view radiography and CBC/chemistry analysis, is prudent. Treatment typically encompasses surgical resection where possible (with or without adjunctive tectonic grafting procedures). Pigment-rich melanocytomas are also relatively susceptible to the application of cryotherapy. The prognosis for successful management of most cases is good. **P**

Dr Esson is a board-certified veterinary ophthalmologist with more than twenty years of clinical experience and multiple areas of interest & expertise. His clinic Veterinary Ophthalmic Consulting (www.vocsocal.com) is family owned & operated and he takes great pride & pleasure in working closely with his friends and colleagues in the greater Southern California veterinary community.

