

HYPOALBUMINAEMIA AS A POSSIBLE BIOMARKER OF GASTRO-INTESTINAL LYMPHOMA IN CATS

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Both gastrointestinal (GI) lymphoma and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) are common and debilitating disorders of cats with similar clinical findings and often both will show intestinal thickening on abdominal ultrasound. The diagnosis and differentiation between GI lymphoma and IBD requires the histopathological evaluation of biopsy samples taken from the GI tract, obtained either via laparotomy (full-thickness surgical biopsies) or mucosal biopsies (obtained endoscopically). The latter, however, can still be difficult to conclusively differentiate IBD from GI lymphoma.

The purpose of this study was to compare the degree of hypoalbuminaemia in cats with GI lymphoma and IBD with the hypothesis that cats with GI lymphoma would have a lower serum albumin concentration in comparison to those with IBD.

The records of 38 client owned cats that had been diagnosed with either GI lymphoma or IBD on histopathology from endoscopically derived mucosal biopsies were retrospectively evaluated.

Of the 38 cats, 25 were diagnosed with GI lymphoma and 13 with IBD. In the GI lymphoma group, ages ranged from 3-19 years with a median 10.1; whereas in the IBD group, ages ranged from 1-13 years with a median of 10.5. There was no statistically difference between the groups. In the GI lymphoma group, serum albumin concentration ranged from 1.5-2.5 g/dl with a median of 2 g/dl; whereas in the IBD group, serum albumin concentrations ranged from 2.5-3.5 g/dl with a median of 2.75 g/dl. There was a statistically difference between the groups ($p < 0.05$).

The study concluded that cats with GI lymphoma have a lower serum albumin concentration than cats with IBD and therefore serum albumin concentrations can be used as biomarker to aid in differentiating GI lymphoma from IBD in cats.