



centralcpd

Part of Improve International

Deep Dives

Oncology

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Learning Objectives

1. Cancer Classification and Biological Behaviour

- a. Knowledge of the three main families of cancer: round cell, epithelial/carcinoma and mesenchymal/sarcoma
- b. Understanding of the general biologic behaviour of the most common medical oncology conditions encountered in practice and how this impacts treatment options

2. Lymphoma and Leukaemia

- a. Understanding of the approach to diagnosis, staging and basic treatment
- b. Knowledge of the challenges in differentiation of low-grade alimentary lymphoma from chronic inflammatory enteropathy in cats
- c. Knowledge of immunophenotypic testing: flow cytometry, immunocytochemistry, immunohistochemistry and PARR

3. Round Cell Neoplasms: plasma cell neoplasia/multiple myeloma, histiocytic sarcoma, mast cell tumour and transmissible venereal tumour

- a. Understanding of the general diagnostic approach and medical treatment options

4. Neuroendocrine Tumours and their Medical Sequelae

- a. Knowledge of clinical presentation, biological behaviour, diagnosis and grading of apocrine gland anal sac adenocarcinoma
- b. Knowledge of treatment options for apocrine gland anal sac adenocarcinoma, including management of paraneoplastic hypercalcaemia
- c. Knowledge of clinical presentation, biological behaviour, diagnosis and treatment of thyroid carcinoma in both dogs and cats
- d. Knowledge of clinical presentation, signalment, diagnosis and staging of insulinoma
- e. Knowledge of treatment options for insulinoma, including treatment of paraneoplastic hypoglycaemia
- f. Understanding of the approach to incidental adrenal masses, including knowledge of diagnosis and treatment of pheochromocytoma

5. Mammary Gland Tumours

- a. Knowledge of the presentation, staging and prognostic factors associated with mammary gland tumours in both dogs and cats
- b. Understanding of key anatomy involved in surgical decision making

6. Soft Tissue Sarcoma

- a. Understanding of characteristics of soft tissue sarcoma and knowledge of diagnosis, grading and surgical treatment options, including reoccurrence rate
- b. Knowledge of presentation and prognosis for feline injection site sarcoma

7. Transitional Cell Carcinoma (involving the bladder or urethra)

- a. Understanding of diagnostic approach, including BRAF testing
- b. Knowledge of treatment and potential complications

8. Overview of Basic Oncology Treatment Modalities and their Clinical Indications

- a. Knowledge of different types of chemotherapy: cytotoxic, metronomic and tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs)
- b. Understanding of surgical considerations for treatment of common types of tumour
- c. Knowledge of radiation therapy as a potential treatment modality
- d. Knowledge of electrochemotherapy as a potential treatment modality
- e. Understanding of general approach to staging and restaging oncology patients

9. Basics of Safe Chemotherapy Drug Handling and Potential Side Effects of these Drugs

- a. Understanding of the mechanism of action of cytotoxic drugs
- b. Understanding of health and safety guidelines for handling cytotoxic drugs
- c. Knowledge of potential side effects of cytotoxic drugs including the toxicities specific to certain drugs

10. Communication Skills

- a. Ability to deliver upsetting news with empathy and with consideration for the owner's emotions
- b. Knowledge of communication techniques that can be used to help when discussing prognosis and cancer diagnosis with owners