RESULTS OF THE COMBINED TREATMENT WITH PIROXICAM AND CARBOPLATIN IN CANINE ORAL NON-TONSILLAR SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA.


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Introduction: Over-expression of COX-2 has been observed in several human and animal malignancies and is implicated in carcinogenesis through the conversion of arachidonic acid to PGE-2. Use of platinum-containing cytostatic agents and/or (non-)specific COX-2 inhibitors, has been reported as a treatment option for canine oral non-tonsillar squamous cell carcinomas (ONT-SCC). However, no study describes the effect of a combination of carboplatin and piroxicam on this tumor type.

Methods: 7 dogs with a T3 (WHO-TNM) ONT-SCC were treated with piroxicam and carboplatin. Five had bone involvement and no detectable metastasis. Two dogs without bone involvement had metastasis in the regional lymph nodes. Piroxicam was given orally 0.3 mg/kg s.i.d. Each dog was scheduled to receive between 6 and 12 carboplatin infusions (300 mg/m² i.v.) at 3 week intervals. Ondansetron and metoclopramide were used as anti-emetic agents. The dogs are planned to receive piroxicam on a lifelong basis.

Results: Complete response (CR) without adjuvant surgery was achieved in 4 of the 7 dogs. Two dogs needed adjuvant surgery to achieve CR. One dog had progressive disease and was euthanised 231 days after start of therapy. All the others were still alive and in CR at date of analysis. Median follow-up was 335 days (107 - 689 days).

Conclusions: Our study suggests that a combination of piroxicam and carboplatin is a useful treatment option for canine ONT-SCC. All dogs tolerated therapy well and the 57% response rate for reaching a complete and durable remission without adjuvant surgery is promising.