HAEMANGIOSARCOMA OCCURRENCE IN THE GOLDEN RETRIEVER LIFETIME STUDY

Introduction:

The Golden Retriever Lifetime Study is a longitudinal canine health study. This descriptive analysis of accumulating haemangiosarcoma data aimed to generate hypotheses and encourage research collaboration to better understand the epidemiology of the disease.

Materials and Methods:

3,044 pedigree golden retrievers were recruited to the study from the contiguous United States. Data were collected through genotyping of participating dogs, annual clinical examinations with routine collection of samples, annual owner and veterinarian questionnaires, biopsies of suspected malignancies, post mortems examinations and medical history.

Results:

At the time of the analysis, 233 (7.7%) dogs had been diagnosed with hemangiosarcoma, at a rate of 1 case per 91.1 dog-years. The probability of remaining without a hemangiosarcoma diagnosis declined from 100% at 4 years of age, to twelve year probabilities of 91.1% in females (95% CI 84.4 – 98.3%) and <73% in in neutered females, males and neutered males. Visceral hemangiosarcoma affected 211 dogs (6.9%). On the day of diagnosis, 58% of visceral hemangiosarcoma cases were deceased; the one year probability of survival was less than 1% (0.96%; 95% CI 0.24 – 3.82%). 13 dogs were diagnosed with cutaneous hemangiosarcoma, with a one year probability of survival of 38.5% (95% CI 19.3 – 76.5%).

Conclusions:

This analysis highlights the potential for use of the freely-accessible data from the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study to improve the understanding of the epidemiology of canine hemangiosarcoma.