

## **A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY OF THE CANINE NEOPLASTIC CONDITIONS REFERRED TO VETERINARY PATHOLOGY DIVISION**

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The present study on canine neoplastic conditions was based on the surgical specimens submitted to the Pathology Division for histological examinations. A total of 118 specimens were received from the Veterinary Teaching Hospital during a period of 20 months (from January 2001 to August 2002). Eighty-one (68.6%) of the specimens were identified as neoplasm and in all instances the age, sex and the breed of the animals and the location of the tumour was known.

The age of the affected dogs ranged from 6 months to 13 years. The majority (92.6%) of the neoplasms examined were found to be benign and the balance 7.4% was malignant (hepatocellular carcinoma, osteosarcoma, ocular adenocarcinoma and fibrosarcoma).

A system based histological analysis of the neoplasms revealed that 59.2% of the cases originated from the skin and the adnexa. Tumours associated with the female and male genital systems accounted for 16.4% and 9.8% of the cases, respectively. Other neoplasms had originated from the musculoskeletal (2.3%), gastrointestinal (2.5%), urinary (1.2%) and lymphoreticular (1.2%) systems and the eye (2.3%).

The sex distribution of the neoplastic conditions showed that both sexes were almost equally affected (males 50.6 % and females 49.4%). The most common tumour encountered among the males was found to be sertoli cell tumour while the commonest among the females was found to be that associated with the mammary glands.

Crossbred dogs were found to be the most affected (41.9%) while German Shepherds and Pomeranians ranked second (29.6%) and third (9.8%), respectively. Japanese Spitz, Rottweiler, Doberman, Rhodesian Ridge Back and Labrador Retrievers were also found to be affected but were few in numbers.

Although tumours of the skin and the associated structures accounted for the highest in this study, three studies carried-out in the recent past at the Faculty showed that the mostly affected system was the urogenital system. However, a more systematic study was necessary to draw a definite conclusion regarding the types and behaviour of these neoplasms.