

FIBROSARCOMA IN A YELLOW ANACONDA (*Eunectes notneus*) (CASE 1598.1)

CASE HISTORY

Adult male yellow anaconda (*Eunectes notneus*) was anorexic for 4 months. It developed a mass in the caudal abdomen - approximately 15 cm cranial to the vent. Exploratory laparotomy revealed an 11 cm x 7 - 8 cm mass, which was removed from the caudal coelomic cavity. The mass was intimately associated with a 1 cm diameter extension of the gall bladder and the vas deferens. Upon cut section the mass was composed of firm, white, glossy material. The tissue at one pole of the mass contained multiple swirling tan, friable streaks.

CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

| WCC | PCV | Hp | Lc | Az | Mc |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| 20.5x10 ⁹ | 28% | 36% | 43% | 19% | 2% |

| TP | Glucose | Creat | CK | AST | Uric acid |
|-------|---------|-------|---------|--------|-----------|
| 78g/L | 2.3mM | 442uM | 162IU/L | 11IU/L | 0.3mM |

HISTOPATHOLOGY

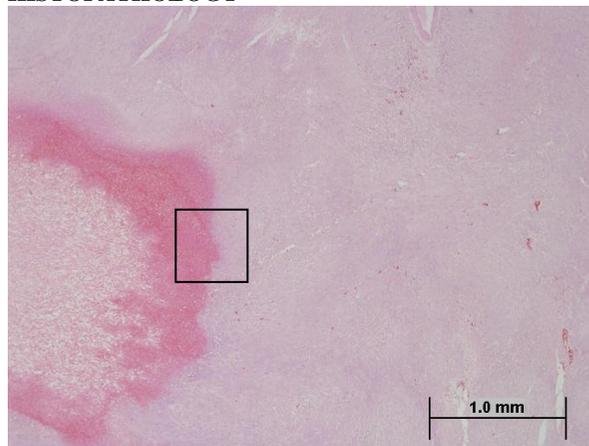


Fig 1. Mass with necrotic center. H&E 4x.

The sample consists of two large portions of the intra-coelomic mass. The mass is composed of an admixture of a swirling array of spindle cells, and extensive foci of coagulation necrosis. Foci of necrosis and the viable tissue adjacent to them contain large numbers of heterophils (Figs 1, 2). Heterophils are scattered through the remainder of the

mass in much lower numbers. The swirling bundles of spindle cells exhibit marked anisokaryosis, prominent nucleoli, megakaryosis, occasional multinucleation, and bizarre shaped nuclei (Figs 3, 4). Approximately 2 mitotic figures are evident per 100x objective field. Eosinophilic amorphous material is evident between spindle cells in multiple regions of the mass.

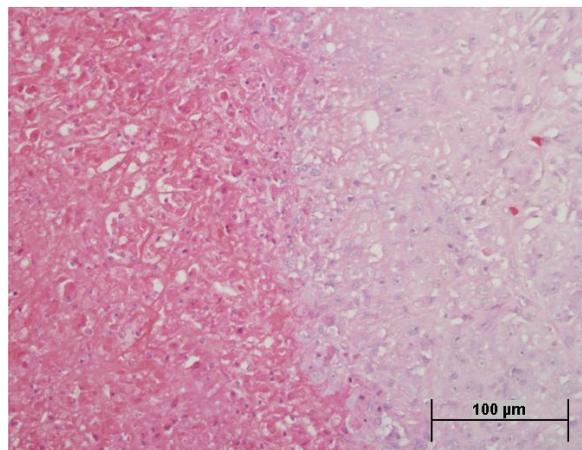


Fig 2. Inset from Fig 1. H&E 40x

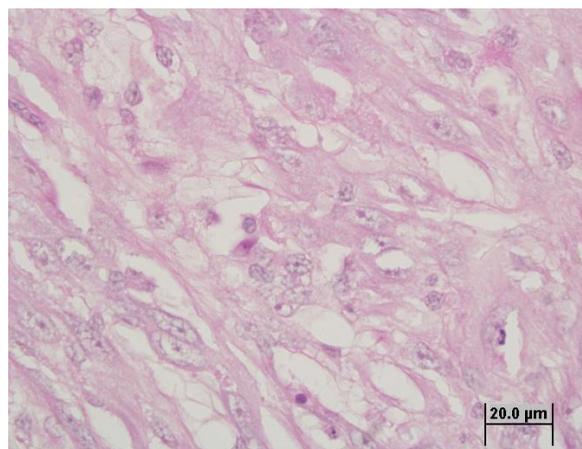


Fig 3. Section of mass. H&E 100x

MORPHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS

Focally extensive coelomic fibrosarcoma

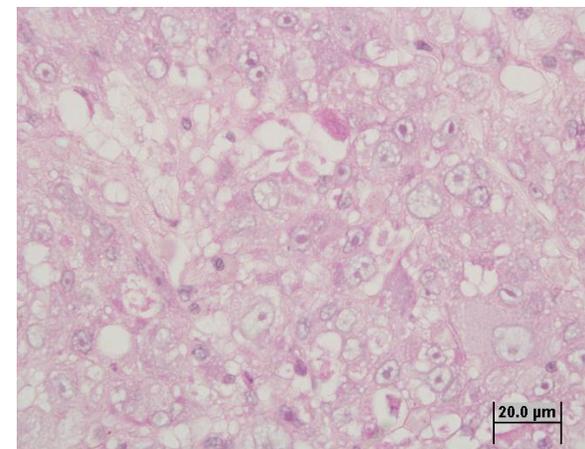


Fig 4. Section of mass. H&E 100x

COMMENTS

Although the mass had multiple foci of necrosis, these were foci of coagulation, most likely resulting from poor blood supply to the center of the tumor (tumor necrosis). The whirling array of spindle cells, and evidence of malignant characteristics, supports a diagnosis of spindle cell tumor. The presence of eosinophilic material between spindle cells is suggestive of a fibrosarcoma, rather than a leiomyoma (production of proteinaceous matrix). The degree of anaplastic change of the spindle cells is highly suggestive of an aggressive tumor. Local recurrence of this type of tumor would be much more likely than metastatic spread. These tumors are common in the oral cavity, orbit and coelomic cavity. Clinical pathology results are within normal limits.

REFERENCES

- JANERT, B. A fibrosarcoma in a siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*). *J Zoo Wildl Med*, 1998, 29(1): 72-77.
- FRYE, F. L. DUTRA, F. Fibrosarcoma in a boa constrictor. *Vet Med Small Anim Clin*. 1973. 68(3): 245-246.
- IDOWU, A. L. GOLDING, R. R. IKEDE, B. O. HILL, D. H. CUNNINGHAM, J. H. AKERELE, S. B. Oral fibroma in a captive python. *J Wildl Dis*. 1975. 11(2): 201-204.