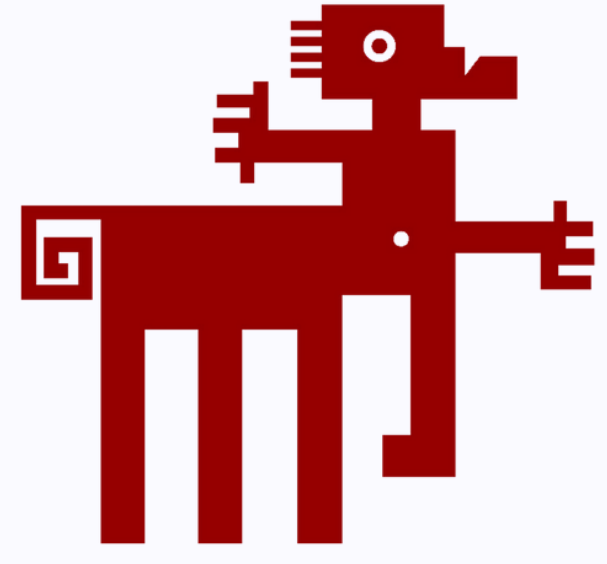


Thoracolumbar disk extrusions in dogs: recurrence of neurologic deficits and other post-operative complications



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Final Degree Project – June 2023

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Introduction

Disk extrusions are a common occurrence in dogs, and surgical decompression (hemilaminectomy) is considered the most effective and safe treatment. However, it is crucial to be aware of potential complications.

Objectives

The aim of this study is to determine the most relevant post-operative complications of a hemilaminectomy performed in a dog, along with the risk factors associated with each one.

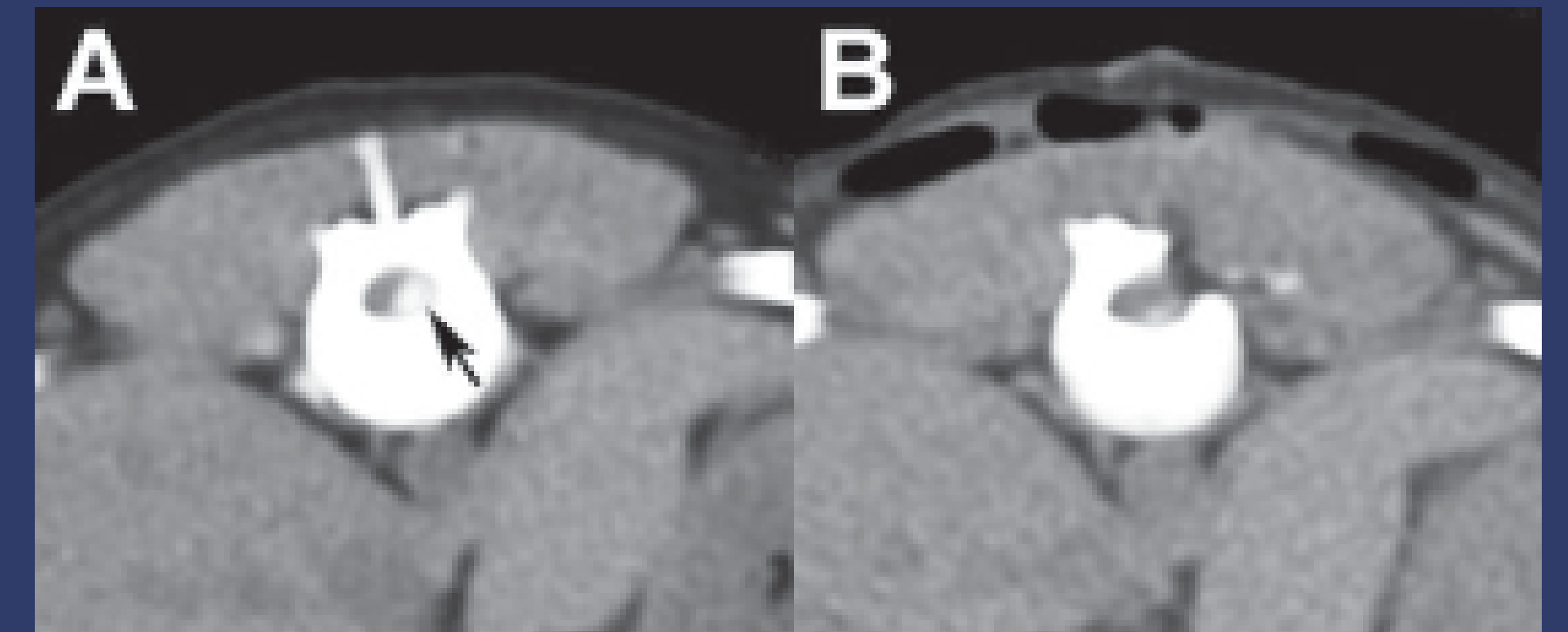


Figure 1: TC images before (A) and after (B) a decompressive surgery at T11-T12 in a 7 year old dog. The arrow shows the disk material extruded.

Results

COMPLICATION	PREVALENCE	RISK FACTORS
Urinary tract infection	38%	Bladder catheterization (number of days), corticosteroid use
Haematoma formation	undetermined	Intra-operative haemorrhage, hindered venous return
Re-extrusion of a disk recently operated	4.5-12% (with fenestration)	Excessive activity, not fenestrating
Urinary/fecal incontinence	4%	Haematoma formation, severity of the primary lesion
Myelomalacia	2%	Loss of deep sensation, intra-operative hemorrhage
Laminectomy membrane formation	0.6-3.4%	Not using fat grafts

Conclusions

- Most frequent complications: urinary tract infection and haematoma formation
- Most severe complications: myelomalacia, laminectomy membrane formation and urinary/fecal incontinence
- Main risk factors to avoid: bladder catheterization and intra-operative hemorrhage

References

