
6. Streszczenie i słowa klucze w języku angielskim.

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP)

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) is a widespread viral disease affecting domestic cats and other felines. This highly fatal disease, until recently, is caused by a mutated, virulent form of feline enteric coronavirus (FECV). So far, the disease has been reported among young kittens aged from several months to 2 years, but currently it affects cats of all ages, even over 12 years of age. There are two forms of the disease: dry - with the formation of granulomas in the organs and wet - acute, with the formation of exudate in the body cavities. The clinical symptoms of FIP are diverse. In the exudative form, fluid accumulates in the body cavities. Diagnosis of the disease is difficult and is based on interview data, observed clinical symptoms, laboratory, molecular and imaging test results, and analysis of the collected fluid. As cases of feline infectious peritonitis are reported more frequently in the population of these animals, there is a constant need to update information on the epidemiology of the disease, its clinical course, and diagnostics. The main objectives of the study were to demonstrate whether there is a correlation between breed, sex, age and the occurrence of the exudative form of FIP and to demonstrate a relationship between the course of the disease and the ultrasound image of internal organs. In other words, to demonstrate changes in the ultrasound image that may be considered a marker of infection.

The study included 188 cats - 127 with confirmed FIP, 27 healthy individuals forming one control group and 34 cats with lymphomas forming the second control group. The animals underwent a broad clinical examination and an ultrasound examination. FIP was diagnosed based on the results of PCR, rapid tests, and the Rivalta test. The results of the study showed that infectious peritonitis can develop in any age group, regardless of sex and breed of cats. Accumulation of fluid in the abdominal cavity was the main symptom accompanying FIP. In individuals with the exudative form of FIP, ultrasound examination revealed changes in most abdominal organs, but they were not pathognomonic and required differentiation from other pathological conditions.

Thanks to the development of technology in ultrasound, better resolution of devices, greater possibility of noticing details in internal organs, ultrasound examination can significantly facilitate the diagnosis of FIP. Its limitation is undoubtedly subjective analysis of images. It should be borne in mind that further diagnostics of the disease after the ultrasound examination is justified and based on the ultrasound image it is not possible to make a diagnosis of FIP, or at most to suspect it.

Keywords: Feline Infectious Peritonitis, PCR, cats, ultrasound examination