Atypical Truncal Fibropapilloma in a Male Llama

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Case Presentation A 4-year old heavy-wooled male llama was examined for a large (10 cm X 12 cm), irregular skin mass overlying the right cranial midthoracic region, which was discovered at the time of shearing (Figure 1). Other than the skin mass, there were no other abnormalities present on the physical exam. The llama was heavily sedated with xylazine and butorphanol. The fiber around the mass was clipped close to the skin and the mass was aseptically prepared for biopsy collection. Incisional biopsies (~1 cm^3) were collected from the center of the mass as well as dorsal margin of the mass (including a sample with normal skin). There was no attempt to close biopsy incisions. However, four loose interrupted sutures (#1 Prolene) were placed through the skin ~2 cm from each corner of the mass. A bandage made of gauze squares and held in place with a shoe string tied in a cruciate pattern was applied over the wounds. Histopathology revealed a locally extensive zone of papillary epithelial proliferation with underlying fibrovascular stroma. There was also a thick surface layer of orthokeratotic hyperkeratosis and dermal fibrosis. The histopathologic diagnosis was a cutaneous fibropapilloma (wart).

Outcome Cryotherapy is a treatment method that induces cold damage to cutaneous warts. Following diagnosis, every other week cryotherapy treatments using liquid nitrogen were implemented under heavy sedation with xylazine and butorphanol. The freezing with liquid nitrogen destroys the wart tissue, interrupting the vascular supply and stimulating the immune system, eventually leading to the resolution of the cutaneous warts. Cryotherapy treatments were completed after eight treatments (16 weeks from diagnosis) (Figure 2). At the time of the third treatment, two raised cutaneous areas of alopecia resembling new warts appeared on the left front lateral toe and right front medial toe (just dorsal to the claw). Cryotherapy was attempted on this lesion as well but due to its distal limb location, cryotherapy was not possible without general anesthesia. Over the remaining course of treatment for the primary truncal fibropapilloma, the secondary limb lesion gradually resolved.

Discussion Fibropapillomas and fibromas are the most common neoplasia in camelids. Unlike other species, nonviral-associated tumors may also occur in camelids. They tend to develop in adult llamas (4-12 years of age), have features resembling an equine sarcoid, and be located on the face, nose, lip, or distal limb. This is the first report of a truncal fibropapilloma in a llama.

References