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A FIBROMA HINDERING THE NECK-BENDING MECHANISM IN A TORTOISE

By

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Clinical Findings:-

A seven year old and 1050 gm body weight male African tortoise, exhibited a hard loose hazel-nut size swelling under the neck skin, hindering the withdrawal of the head into the shell presented as a clinical case (Fig. A). From the history, the swelling was discovered since 6 months and appeared smaller in size. Surgical removal of the swellign was performed under the effect of ketamine premedication at a dose rate 22-44 mg/kg.b.w. injected i.m. (legs) (Glem, et al., 1972), and 1 ml of 0.5% xylocain local infiltration anaesthesia.

Firm and loose spherical mass of a hazel-nut size, enveloped in a dense connective tissue capsule was removed (Fig. B). then the surgical incision was stitched.

At necropsy, the saggital cut surface appeared fibrous in consistancy (Fig. C). microscopically, the swelling consisted of spindle shaped fibrocytes and fibroblasts. Most of these cells formed spiral bundles. mature collagen fibres were interposed among the bundles (Fig. D).

The case diagnosed as benign fibroma.

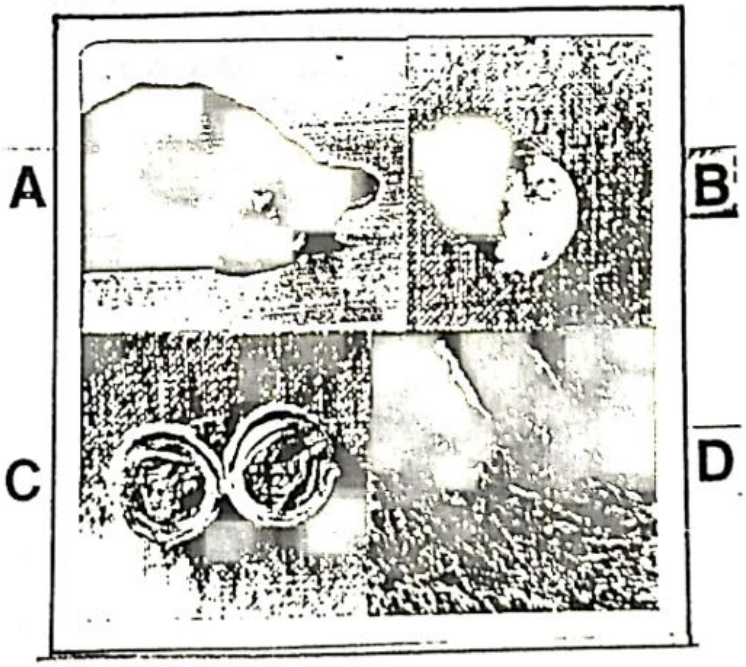

Fig. A: A hard loose huzel-nut size sweling under the neck skin

Fig. B: Firm spherical mass developed in a dense C.T. Capsule

Fig. C: Saggital cut surface appeared fibrous in consistancy.

Fig. D: Spindle shaped fibrocytes and fibroblasts formed a spiral bundles, also found mature collagen fibres interposed among the bundles. H & E, x 40.

DISCUSSION

Tortosises are oviparous reptile belong to class Reptilia, subclass Anapsida, order Testudinae (Chelonia). The species of reptile is characterised by the presence of the chelonian shell which is consisted of 2 main components the dome-shaped carapace and the ventral plastron, both of which have the same basic composition. An outer covering of keratinized scales or scutes derived from the epidermis and an inner layer of horny plates produced in the dermis. The trunk region of the vertebral colum is fused to the inner surface of the carapace. The cervical vertebrae are loosely articulated allowing the neck bending necessary when the head is withdramn into the shell. Thereby considerable protection from predators is provided (Cooper and jackson 1981). The case report contributed to the possible sites of neoplasms in such species of reptile that greatly affects the mechanism of protection. There are several reports on neoplastic disease of Family Testudinae, however,other regions have been involved (Bresler, 1963; Cowan, 1968; Effron, et al. (1977). Other reports have dealt with therapy and surgery of such conditions (Frye, 1981 and Towler, 1986).

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