



Quality Veterinary Diagnostics
from Disease to Optimal Health

Newsletter 09 / 2016



We are pleased to welcome you to the monthly BattLab newsletter. This newsletter will bring you the latest news and information about our laboratory and all tests that we can offer to all our clients.

Seminars

We are pleased to announce the fourth of our series of seminars at BattLab, addressed to all veterinarians and **focusing on reptiles**.



Title: "Reptiles in clinical practice - common presentations and laboratory testing"

Date: Thursday 6th of October 2016

Starting: 19:30

Venue: The Venture Centre, University of Warwick Science Park,
Sir William Lyons Road, Coventry CV4 7EZ (Free parking)

Speaker: *Rachel Marschang*, (DVM, DipECZM), consultant veterinarian for reptile diagnostics at LABOKLIN and adjunct professor (PD) at the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart

Program:

19:30-20:00 - Light refreshment

20:00-21:30 - Seminar

Spaces still available! Contact the laboratory (admin@battlab.com) for registration.
More seminars will follow soon. Keep an eye to our [Facebook page](#) for more information.

A review in pictures..

.. of our Haematology seminar at the 1st September. We were very happy to host a full house at the Venture Centre.



Canine degenerative myelopathy

Canine degenerative myelopathy (DM), also known as chronic degenerative radiculomyelopathy, is a progressive disease of the spinal cord in older dogs, causing degeneration of the white matter of the spinal cord (demyelination and axonal loss). The disease has an insidious onset typically between 7 and 14 years of age. It begins with a loss of coordination (ataxia) in the hind limbs and the weakness gets progressively worse until the dog is unable to walk. The clinical course can range from 6 months to 1 year before dogs become paraplegic. If signs progress for a longer period of time, loss of urinary and fecal continence may occur and eventually weakness will develop in the front limbs.



Clinical diagnosis of degenerative myelopathy is done by elimination of other possible conditions causing similar symptoms, which can be reached through advanced diagnostic tests like CSF analysis, myelography and MRI. When these conditions are ruled out, a presumptive diagnosis of DM is considered likely. Definitive confirmation of the disease can only be achieved by microscopic examination of the spinal cord during post mortem examination.



Genetic testing may help to identify dogs at risk for developing this condition and to establish therapeutic options to prevent the clinical signs from developing.

At the present time the mutated gene (exon 2) responsible for DM has been found in several breeds including German Shepherds, Boxers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, and both breeds of Welsh Corgis. Note that an additional DM mutation on exon 1 has also been identified in Bernese Mountains dog.

The mode of inheritance of the disease is autosomal recessive with variable penetrance, and two alleles have been identified, A and G. Three possible scenarios may occur:

- 1) *Clear*: The dog is not carrier of the mutant gene, and it is extremely unlikely it will develop the disease.
- 2) *Carrier*: The dog carries one copy of the mutant gene and one copy of the normal gene, and it is extremely unlikely it will develop the disease, but may pass on the trait to their offspring depending on the status of their mate.
- 3) *Affected*: The dog carries two copies of the mutant gene and therefore it will pass the mutant gene to its entire offspring; the dog might show signs of the disease later in life.

Our laboratory offers a **comprehensive service for genetic testing** for all domestic species. For all genetic tests (including DM) sample requirements are a buccal swab or preferably 0.5-1ml of EDTA blood. Turnaround time and prices vary according to the test. For more information visit [our website](#) or contact us by phone or

[email](#).

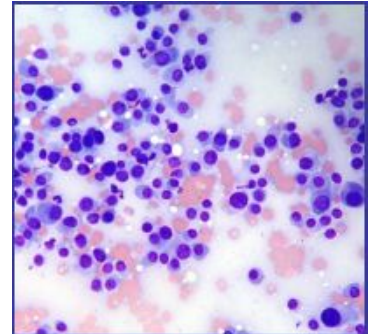


Cytology picture of the month

These pictures are from an aspirate from a cutaneous mass on a dorsal neck of a 12 years old, male Cocker Spaniel dog (Wright Giemsa, 20-50x)

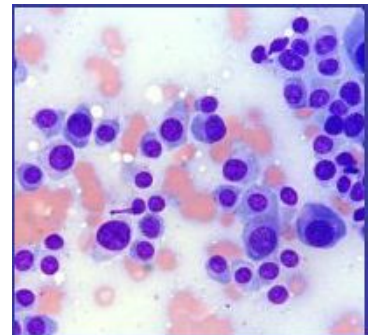
What is your diagnosis?

The submitted smear has adequate cellularity and good preservation. There is a lightly basophilic background with moderate numbers of red blood cells. A monomorphic population of discrete round cells is seen throughout the smear. These cells have moderate amounts of basophilic cytoplasm, with defined cytoplasmic borders, rarely showing a perinuclear clear halo.



Nuclei are round, paracentral to eccentric, with granular chromatin, and poorly visible nucleoli. Anisocytosis (variation in cell size) and anisokaryosis (variation in nuclear size) are moderate, occasionally marked. Rare binucleated cells are seen.

The aspirate harvested high numbers of discrete round cells, likely plasmacytic in origin. This is consistent with a cutaneous plasma cell tumour, a benign neoplasia of plasma cells, commonly described on the skin of adult and older dogs. Plasma cell tumours frequently appear as small, solitary lesions, with a predilection for digits, ears, and mouth.



Our laboratory offers a comprehensive cytology service for all domestic species. This is provided by on-site board certified clinical pathologists, with a turnaround time typically within 4 hours from the receipt of the sample.

For more information about our cytology service please visit our [website](#).

60 seconds with...

We hear from Daniela Collin, Lab Technician at BattLab.

How long have you been at BattLab?

I have worked at Battlab for eight years and four months.

What is your role at BattLab?

I am a lab technician at BattLab. It is very difficult to put all my duties and responsibilities in 60 seconds. But basically I make sure that the samples we receive in the lab are processed in order to obtain accurate results.



What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I love going out with friends, to the cinema, to pub quiz nights and to concerts. I also enjoy reading books and cooking in my spare time as well as travelling and shopping. One of my passions apart

from that is making jewellery.

Yours sincerely,

The BattLab team

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