Surgical Correction of Cleft Palate Secondary to Trauma in a Cat

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Case Description- An eight-month-old intact male DSH cat was presented with a history of falling three flights of stairs the day before referral. The owner's chief complaint was lameness on the right forelimb.

Clinical Findings- Upon physical examination a rather long fissure was observed in the secondary palate which seemed to be due to the trauma caused by high-rise syndrome. The wound was clean-contaminated, the edges were sharp with little inflammation and it appeared to be within the golden period. No connection between oral and nasal cavity was observed and the palatine bone looked intact. Furthermore the fissure didn't extend to involve the soft palate.

Treatment and Outcome- Based on the wound properties the primary closure approach was applied. The patient underwent inhalation anesthesia and the fissure was closed with simple interrupted sutures utilizing nylon 4-0 suture material. The wound was examined on days 3 and 14 after the operation. The healing went smoothly and wound repair seemed uneventful. On day 14 the sutures were removed and the patient has been in good overall health ever since.

Clinical Relevance- Traumatic cleft palate occurs most frequently due to dental problems. To the author's knowledge this is a rare case of feline hard palate fissure without damaging the bones as a result of high-rise syndrome. Because the palatine bone was intact, the healing occurred promptly as expected and no complications arose afterwards.

Key Words- cat – hard palate – cleft palate

References
