

HEPATOSPLENIC IMMUNOBLASTIC LYMPHOMA IN A BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN (*TURSIOPS TRUNCATUS*)

A. Espinosa de los Monteros¹, A. Fernández¹, J. Pérez², P. Herráez¹, M. Arbelo¹,
T. Fernández¹, F. Guisado and J. R. Jaber¹

¹*Departamento de Morfología, Facultad de Veterinaria de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, .Trasmontaña s/n,
Arucas. 35416, Canary Islands, Spain*

²*Departamento de Anatomía y Anatomía Patológica Comparadas, Facultad de Veterinaria de Córdoba, Spain*

The gross, histopathological, immunohistochemical and ultrastructure features of an immunoblastic lymphoma are described in a bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) found stranded alive in the coast of Gran Canaria (Canary Island, Spain). The spleen and liver were moderately enlarged because of diffuse infiltration of round neoplastic cells in splenic cords and sinuses and in hepatic sinusoids, but they were not found in other organs. Tumour cells showed scant lightly eosinophilic or basophilic cytoplasm with distinct cell boundaries and hyperchromatic nucleus with one or more nucleoli. Mitoses were common. The immunophenotype of tumour cells was IgG+ and CD3-. The ultrastructural examination revealed features of malignancy among these cells. Based on the histopathological, immunohistochemical and ultrastructural features the tumour was classified as an immunoblastic lymphoma. A possible association with high levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) is discussed.

PATHOLOGICAL FINDINGS IN BEAKED WHALES STRANDED MASSIVELY IN THE CANARY ISLANDS (2002)

A. Fernández¹, M. Arbelo¹, E. Degollada², M. André¹, A. Castro-Alonso¹, R. Jaber¹, V. Martín³, P. Calabuig⁴,
P. Castro¹, P. Herráez¹, F. Rodríguez¹, and A. Espinosa de los Monteros¹

¹*Unit of Histology and Anatomic Pathology, Veterinary School,
University of Las Palmas of Gran Canaria, Canary Islands*

²*Unit of Anatomy. Veterinary School. University Autonomous of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain*

³*Canary Society for Cetacean Studies. Canary Islands*

⁴*Center for Wild Animal Care. Gran Canaria. Canary Islands*

From 24 to 27 September 2002, a mass stranding of 14 beaked whales occurred on the beaches of Fuerteventura and Lanzarote islands (Canary Islands-Spain). Seven animals (one female *Mesoplodon densirostris*, one female *Mesoplodon europaeus* and five male *Ziphius cavirostris*) were found dead the 24th of September, while the rest of the cetaceans were returned to deeper waters alive. Four more beaked whales were found dead the following days (25th and 27th). The necropsy of six fresh animals was performed the 24th, preserving the heads at 4°C, until they were carefully analysed the 25th, in the Department of Veterinary Pathology (Veterinary School-University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria). One male *Ziphius cavirostris* moderately autolytic was completely necropsied the 25th in Fuerteventura and three autolytic carcasses of two males and one female *Ziphius cavirostris* were analysed the 25th (Lanzarote) and 27th (Fuerteventura) respectively. We systematically took samples from all necropsied cetaceans and all of them were processed for their corresponding histopathological study. The epidemiological data, the gross and the histopathological results revealed that the ten animals died within the 24 hours period which would span a 6-12 hours prior to and after the appearance of the first stranded beaked whale, at around 7 am, 24th of September, 2002. At necropsy, all animals but one were in very good condition, and the macroscopic and microscopic studies of organ and tissue samples discarded previous existence of either degenerative, inflammatory and neoplastic processes or lesions related to injury caused by ships, fishing gear or other objects. On the other hand, the amount of gastric content, its freshness and digestive status reinforce that the period between the action of the "death-causing agent" and the death itself was short. We describe a mass stranding involving beaked whales showing a very characteristic and unusual pathological picture that coincided temporally and spatially with ongoing naval military manoeuvres.