

POSTER ABSTRACTS

Veterinary Pathology: Exotic, wildlife & zoo animals

157 | PATHOLOGICAL STUDY OF A TRAUMATIC ANTHROPOGENIC INJURY IN THE SKELETON OF A SPINY BUTTERFLY RAY (GYMNURA ALTAVELA)

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Background

External injuries in elasmobranchs are frequent findings, either due to natural interactions or anthropogenic activities. However, there is a general lack about the pathological description of severe traumatic lesions. This work provides an overview of the clinical presentation, diagnostic imaging and pathological features of a traumatic skeletal injury in a spiny butterfly ray (*Gymnura altavela*).

Materials & Methods

An adult female was found lethargic in the bottom of the coast of Gran Canaria, with an external circular incised-contused traumatic lesion of 2 cm diameter in the scapulocoracoid cartilage. It was captured and transferred to the Poema del Mar Aquarium facilities for its clinical evaluation and treatment options. Despite these efforts, the animal eventually died and was transfer to the IUSA for its routinely pathological diagnosis, including a Computed Tomography (CT) study.

Results

A notable reduction on the haematocrit and the hepatosomatic index confirmed a chronic debilitation process. The CT study revealed a comminuted fracture on the right scapulocoracoid cartilage, impacting the articular surfaces of the pectoral arch. The main pathological findings showed the disorganization of the tesserae layer, macroscopically appearing as whitish square to rectangular geometric pieces. Histologically, these pieces of tesserae were separated from the unmineralized cartilage core and ripped out from the perichondrium. In the adjacent tissues, an intense infiltrate of granulocytes and fibrous connective tissue, oedema and haemorrhages were observed.

Conclusion

This study reports the first comprehensive description of skeleton trauma in a spiny butterfly ray, including the clinical presentation, diagnostic imaging and the anatomopathological features.