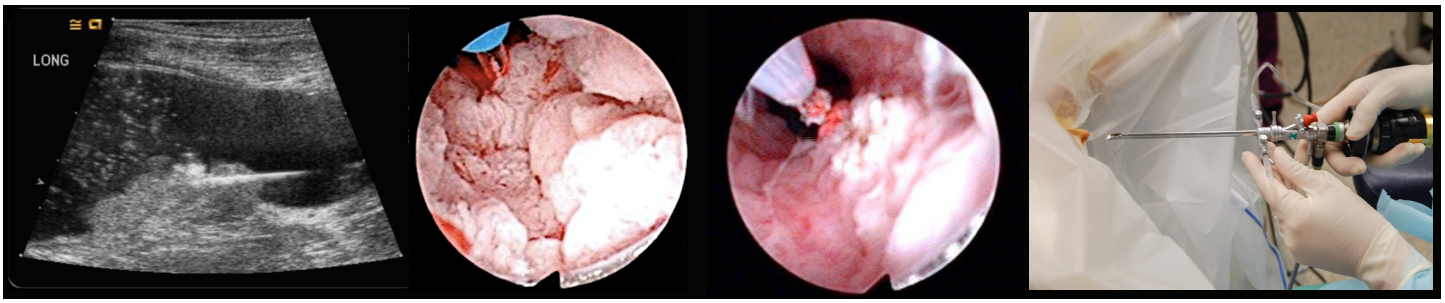
Ultrasound-guided endoscopic laser ablation of urothelial carcinoma

VETERINARY MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY



Procedure: This minimally invasive procedure is performed under anesthesia. Using a cystoscope, a laser fiber is used to debulk cancer (UC; aka transitional cell carcinoma [TCC]) within the urethra and urinary bladder. Simultaneous ultrasonography is used to guide the laser, and to assess the extent of tissue damage.

Indications: UC within the urethra and at the trigone; patients with substantial difficulty voiding or complete outflow obstruction are suitable candidates. This procedure is not thought to prolong survival in dogs with non-obstructive lesions.

Patient eligibility (species, size, gender): Female dogs must be able to accommodate a rigid cystoscope (generally > 5kg/11 lbs); Male dogs must be large enough to accommodate a flexible scope (generally > 8 kg/17 lbs).

Cost: $3500-5000, depending on duration of procedure. Pre-operative evaluation may be necessary (labwork, thoracic radiographs, etc.) and will incur additional costs. Pre-operative costs are higher for dogs unable to urinate at presentation.

Length of stay: Most patients are discharged within 24 hours.

Complications: Risks include perforation (uncommon, but can be life-limiting), infection and seeding (spreading) of the cancer within the urinary tract.

Anticipated outcome: This is palliative, not curative. Most dogs experience a 2-4 month improvement in clinical signs (difficulty emptying, excessive straining, etc). The procedure can be repeated as needed. Adjunctive therapy (e.g., non-steroidal anti-inflammatories, chemotherapy, radiation) is strongly recommended.

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