

Transmissible Venereal Tumor (TVT)

Case Report

Victorian Animal Cancer Care
Box Hill South Victoria

We have just treated our first case of transmissible venereal tumour (TVT) at VACC! Cody is a three year old male cross breed (part Dingo).

Although it is rare to see TVTs in Victoria, Cody was originally from an aboriginal camp in Coober Pedy and spends time in both Melbourne and Coober Pedy.

Cody presented to his local clinic for bleeding from the prepuce. Examination revealed a large, friable multinodular mass at the base of the penis, along with several small satellite nodules.

A biopsy confirmed TVT and Cody was treated with 6 cycles of single agent vincristine chemotherapy.

TVT responds to many forms of therapy, however chemotherapy is the most effective. Surgery is limited by location, high recurrence rate and risk of tumour transplantation.

After two cycles he achieved a partial remission and at his 6th treatment he was very close to being in a complete remission (see photographs). TVTs are interesting cancers as they can have horizontal transmission, typically during coitus, sniffing or licking.



In fact, TVT and Tassie Devil Facial tumour disease are the only naturally occurring clonally transmissible cancers that behave like an infectious parasitic neoplastic tissue graft.

TVTs are also unique in that they are one of few cancers that have durable responses to single agent chemotherapy, and for which multi-agent chemotherapy has not shown superior results.

Complete response rates to vincristine are >90-95%.