INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND: Previously we demonstrated motor reinnervation of the decentralized canine bladder after nerve transfer. Also observed full bladder and bowel sensation in the reinnervated animals.

OBJECTIVES: The goal of this study was to determine whether these micturition and defecation postures are eliminated in decentralized animals up to one year after nerve transaction and determine whether these same animals are capable of sensing bladder fullness after reinnervation.

This research was supported by a grant NIH-NINDS NS070267 to MRR & MFB.

METHODS

Figure 1: A) Surgical approach used for decentralization (n=7) and reinnervation (n=3). In another group decentralization was performed after transection all roots caudal to L7 (n=6). B) Observation of micturition postures in canines pre-operatively (+0 in figure 2) and at monthly intervals post-operatively (PO) via video surveillance of housing cages. C) Awake urodynamic were performed at monthly intervals PO, to studied the ability to empty a filled bladder in recovery cage with in 10 minutes.

RESULTS

Figure 2 A: We observed that all animals with intact L7 dorsal roots showed micturition postures, from the 1st through the 12th postoperative month.
- Urinalysis and cultures were performed in the 4 of 8 animals (#14, #15, #17, #18) with transected L7 dorsal root.
- Urinary tract infections resolved in all 4 animals following Enrofloxacin treatment.
- In 2 of these 4 (#18 & #20), intermediate postures were coincident with culture confirmed bacteriuria and disappeared with antimicrobial treatment.

Figure 2 B: One of these 8 animals (#15) showed no micturition postures up to 12-month PO and one (#14) has shown 2 incisions of micturition postures at 6th and 10th months PO.
- Two of the other 6 dogs (#18 and #20) started showing unusual postures (intermediate between micturition and defecation)
- One of these 2 was euthanized at 9 months due to kidney stone problem
- 3 of 4 animals that consistently showed micturition postures at monthly observation periods were euthanized at 8–9 months PO (#13, #16 and #17).

CONCLUSIONS

- More complete sensory decentralization that include L7 dorsal root transection reduces the number of animals able to sense bladder fullness (Figure 2B).
- Resolution of urinary tract infections (UTI) eliminated unusual postures in decentralized animals.
- Urination postures in animals not tested for UTIs may be the result of undetected UTIs, sensory nerve sprouting or variations in sacral sensory innervation.
- In at most one animal that showed no urination postures for 12 months after decentralization, nerve transfer induced both the ability to sense bladder fullness and bladder emptying behavior confirming both motor and sensory bladder reinnervation (Figure 3).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

REFERENCES