Total Prostatectomy as a Treatment for Prostatic Carcinoma in 25 Dogs

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Total Prostatectomy for Prostatic Carcinoma In Dogs

Total Prostatectomy as a Treatment for Prostatic Carcinoma in 25 Dogs

ABSTRACT

Objective: To describe the complications and outcome following total prostatectomy in dogs with histologically-confirmed prostatic carcinoma.

Study Design: Multi-institutional retrospective case series

Animals: Twenty-five client-owned dogs

Methods: Medical records of dogs undergoing total prostatectomy were reviewed from 2001-2016. Data retrieved included signalment, presenting signs, preoperative clinical findings, including laboratory data, diagnostic imaging, surgical technique, histologic diagnosis, postoperative complications, occurrence of postoperative metastasis, and survival.

Results: Twenty-five dogs underwent total prostatectomy for prostatic carcinoma. Urinary anastomotic techniques included urethrourethral anastomosis in 14 dogs, cystourethral anastomosis in 9 dogs, ureterocolonic anastomosis in 1 dog, and anastomosis between the bladder neck and penile urethra in 1 dog. All dogs survived to discharge. Fifteen dogs were diagnosed with transitional cell carcinoma, 8 dogs with prostatic adenocarcinoma, 1 dog with prostatic cystadenocarcinoma, and 1 dog with an undifferentiated carcinoma. Permanent postoperative urinary incontinence was present in 8 dogs. The median survival time was significantly shorter in dogs with extracapsular tumor extension compared to those with intracapsular tumors. The overall median survival time was 231 days (range, 24-1255 days) and the 1- and 2-year survival rates were 32% and 12%, respectively.
Conclusions: Based on information from this study, the median survival time for dogs with prostatic carcinoma undergoing total prostatectomy is longer and complication rates lower than previously reported.
INTRODUCTION

Prostatic neoplasia is relatively rare in dogs\(^1\) making evaluation of various therapeutic
interventions difficult. Despite the uncommon occurrence in dogs, they are one of the few
domestic species known to develop spontaneous prostatic neoplasia, with carcinomas
being the most common histologic diagnosis.\(^2\) Prostatic carcinomas include transitional
cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma, and squamous cell carcinoma\(^4\). Attempts have been
made to develop more objective methods than traditional light microscopy for
differentiating prostatic adenocarcinoma and transitional cell carcinoma\(^4\). To the authors’
knowledge there is not yet a well accepted objective method of differentiation and the
distinction between adenocarcinoma and transitional cell carcinoma of the prostate
remains controversial.

Prostatic neoplasia carries a poor prognosis in dogs because of aggressive local invasion
and a high rate of regional and distant metastasis.\(^5\) Hematuria, stranguria and tenesmus
are common clinical signs in dogs with prostatic disease,\(^1\)\(^,\)\(^6\) but a diagnosis of prostatic
neoplasia is often delayed because these clinical signs are not pathognomonic for
prostatic tumors. A diagnosis of prostatic neoplasia is made based on physical
examination findings, diagnostic imaging, cytology, and histology. Metastatic disease is
often present at the time of initial diagnosis.\(^1\)\(^,\)\(^6\)

Various treatments have been described for prostatic neoplasia including non-steroidal
anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), chemotherapy, radiation therapy, photodynamic
therapy, and surgery. Surgical options include curative-intent total prostatectomy and
palliative-intent procedures such as partial prostatectomy, transurethral resection,
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radiation therapy, photodynamic therapy, urethral stenting, and urinary diversion procedures.\textsuperscript{7-16}

Improved survival in dogs with urogenital carcinoma has been shown with the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) alone and in combination with chemotherapeutic agents such as mitoxantrone and carboplatin\textsuperscript{17-20}. Reported survival times in dogs with prostatic malignancies vary widely, depending on the stage at diagnosis and treatment pursued\textsuperscript{6,7,9-11,13,14,20-22}. Furthermore, current therapeutic strategies have been associated with poor response and high complication rates.

Total prostatectomy involves removal of the entire prostate gland and prostatic urethra with subsequent reconstruction of the lower urinary tract. Criteria for appropriate case selection for total prostatectomy in dogs have been previously suggested to include small, intracapsular primary lesions, without evidence of metastatic disease.\textsuperscript{23} There have been few reports evaluating total prostatectomy with most concluding that complication rates are too high and survival times are too short to routinely recommend this technique for treatment of dogs with prostatic neoplasia\textsuperscript{21,22,24-26}. The most common complication reported following total prostatectomy is urinary incontinence, which has been reported in 33-100\% of cases\textsuperscript{24,27}.

The purpose of this retrospective multi-institutional study was to report the signalment, presenting signs, intraoperative and postoperative complications, histologic diagnosis, and outcome in dogs treated with total prostatectomy for prostatic neoplasia. We hypothesized total prostatectomy would be associated with a complication rate and survival time similar to other currently available therapeutic interventions.
MATERIALS AND METHODS

This investigation was a multi-institutional retrospective case series approved by the Veterinary Society of Surgical Oncology Research Committee. The study period ranged from October 2004 to August 2016. Medical records from contributing institutions were searched to identify dogs which had undergone total prostatectomy for prostatic neoplasia. Dogs were included if they had undergone total prostatectomy for confirmed prostatic carcinoma. Dogs were excluded where the diagnosis was not confirmed to be carcinoma. Data retrieved included neuter status, breed, age, body weight, presenting clinical signs, dates of presentation and surgery, results of preoperative staging and diagnostic testing, surgical technique, use and duration of postoperative indwelling urethral catheterization, histologic criteria (histologic diagnosis, surgical margin evaluation, and presence of lymphatic and/or vascular invasion), postoperative complications (incidence and severity), use of adjunctive therapy, date and method of detection of recurrent disease, and date and cause of death. Postoperative complications were classified as minor or major. Minor complications were defined as self-limiting or those managed with medical intervention. Major complications were defined as any complication that was expected to cause death without rapid intervention or those requiring a second surgical procedure. Postoperative urinary incontinence was graded from 0-4 using a scheme modified from that reported by Byron et al. (Table 1)\(^\text{28}\) with information recorded from veterinarian assessment and owner reporting in the medical history.

Disease-free interval (DFI) was defined as the time between total prostatectomy and detection of confirmed or suspected metastasis or local recurrence of neoplasia.
Metastasis was suspected if there were consistent imaging or clinical examination findings and was confirmed with cytology or histology. Tumor recurrence was suspected if there was a recurrence of clinical signs or if imaging findings were consistent with a recurrent mass in the region of the previous surgical site; and tumor recurrence was confirmed with cytologic or histologic evidence of neoplasia.

Survival time was defined as the time between total prostatectomy and death. Cause of death was classified as either tumor-related or unrelated. Dogs for which the cause of death was unknown were presumed to have died or been euthanized as a result of tumor-related causes. Dogs that died from unrelated causes or were still alive at the time of writing were censored from the survival analysis.

**Statistical Analysis**

Descriptive statistics for signalment, historical, preoperative, and postoperative data were generated and reported as the arithmetic mean and range. Disease-free intervals and survival times were reported as medians with 95% confidence intervals. Median survival times (MST) were estimated from Kaplan-Meier survival analysis. A log-rank test was used to compare survival curves of dogs with transitional cell carcinoma and prostatic adenocarcinoma. $P \leq 0.05$ was considered significant. Statistical software (Medcalc version 16.8.4 for Windows, Medcalc Software, Ostend, Belgium, www.medcalc.org) was used for descriptive statistical modelling and Kaplan-Meier survival analysis.
RESULTS

Signalment

Twenty-five dogs met the inclusion criteria. The median age was 9.3 years (range 4.9-13.0 years). The median weight was 25.0 kg (range 6.1-47.4 kg). All dogs were neutered males. Breeds were Labrador retriever (n=5), mixed breed (5), German shepherd (2), and 1 each of West Highland White Terrier, Lhasa Apso, Boxer, Dachshund, Jack Russell Terrier, Australian Cattle Dog, Siberian Husky, American Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Wheaten Terrier, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Shetland Sheepdog, Boston Terrier, and Golden Retriever (Table 2).

Clinical Findings

The most common clinical signs on presentation were dysuria (n=12), dyschezia (6), gross hematuria (6), pollakiuria (6), hyporexia (4), and lethargy (4). Prostatic enlargement was detected incidentally on routine digital rectal examination in 4 dogs. Two dogs presented with pre-existing urinary incontinence (grade 2, n=1; grade 4, 1). An enlarged prostate palpated on rectal examination was the most common physical examination finding (n=16). A caudal abdominal mass was detected on abdominal palpation in 2 dogs.

Preoperative Diagnostic Tests

Preoperative serum biochemistry, hematology and urinalysis results were available for 24, 23, and 24 dogs, respectively. Serum biochemistry abnormalities included increased alkaline phosphatase (n=4; 227-634 U/L [reference range, 23-212 U/L]), increased
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alanine transferase (2; 189-657 U/L [reference range, 10-125 U/L]), and

hypertriglyceridemia (1; 539 mg/dL [reference range, 20-112 mg/dL]). Hematologic

abnormalities included anemia (1; 4.88 x10^{12} cells/L [reference range, 5.65-8.87 x10^{12}/L]), neutrophilia (4; 12.5-24.6 x 10^{9}/L [reference range, 2.95-11.64 x10^{9}/L]) and

monocytosis (1; 3.01x10^{9}/L [reference range, 0.16-1.12 x10^{9}/L]). Urinalysis

abnormalities included hematuria (13) and neoplastic epithelial cells on sediment examination (1). Urine was cultured preoperatively in 6 dogs and 3 of these were positive, including *Streptococcus canis* (1), Gram negative rods and Gram positive rods and cocci (1), and a positive culture without further information available (1).

Preoperative imaging for clinical staging included three-projection thoracic radiographs (n=20), orthogonal abdominal radiography (3), abdominal ultrasonography (19), thoracic and abdominal computed tomography (CT) (8), and abdominal magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) (1). No dog had evidence of pulmonary metastatic disease.

Prostatomegaly was detected in all but one dog. The prostate was intrapelvic and not detected on abdominal ultrasonography in this dog. Additional imaging findings included mild internal iliac lymphadenomegaly (3), pyelectasia (1), and ureteral dilation (1).

Preoperative cytology (20) and histopathology (3), reports were available for 23 dogs.

Cytology results included carcinoma, not further classified in (17), epithelial dysplasia (2) and squamous metaplasia (1). Histology results were in agreement with the final post-operative diagnosis in all three cases with transitional cell carcinoma in 2 dogs and prostatic adenocarcinoma in 1 dog.
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Total Prostatectomy

The prostate was approached via a caudal ventral midline celiotomy in all dogs. Pubic and ischial osteotomies (n=3) or pubic symphysiotomy (2) were required for further exposure in 5 dogs with an intrapelvic prostate. Enlarged medial iliac lymph nodes were detected intra-operatively and removed for histologic evaluation in 2 dogs. A retrograde urinary catheter was placed in all dogs prior to prostatectomy. The deferent ducts were ligated and transected. The periprostatic fat was dissected from the prostate, with dissection as close as possible to the prostatic capsule, especially dorsally, to minimize the risk of iatrogenic damage to the neurovascular supply to the urinary bladder and urethra. The prostatic vascular supply was ligated or cauterized as close to the prostate as possible. The urinary catheter was then partially withdrawn to allow for pre- and post-prostatic urethral transection before advancing the catheter back into the bladder following completion of the total prostatectomy. Urethrourethral anastomosis was performed in 14 dogs and cystourethral anastomosis in 9 dogs. One dog had gross disease extending into the bladder and post-prostatic urethra. A total cystoprostatectomy was performed with bilateral ureterocolonic anastomosis in this dog. Another dog had gross disease involving a large section of the post-prostatic urethra and an anastomosis between the bladder neck and penile urethra was performed. The suture materials and patterns used for anastomosis were recorded for 19 dogs. Anastomosis was performed with a monofilament absorbable suture in all dogs using either a simple interrupted (11) or a simple interrupted and simple continuous pattern (8). Closure of the celiotomy incision was routine.
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**Postoperative Management**

A urinary catheter was maintained postoperatively in 20 dogs for a median of 4 days (range, 1-7).

All dogs were treated with postoperative analgesia and protocols were variable including NSAIDs (n=22), opioids (20), tramadol (9), ketamine (1), and acetaminophen (1).

**Surgical Complications and Outcome**

All dogs survived to discharge and no intraoperative or perioperative deaths were recorded. There were 4 major complications in 4 dogs and 16 minor complications in 15 dogs.

Major complications included minor incisional dehiscence (n=2), uroabdomen (1), and prepubic herniation (1). Revision surgery was performed in all dogs with major complications. Uroabdomen was detected 1 day post-operatively in 1 dog and a 15 mm laceration was found at the bladder neck. This was presumed to be iatrogenic. Prepubic herniation occurred 20 days post-operatively in another dog and was repaired with polypropylene mesh.

Minor complications included permanent urinary incontinence (n=8), urinary tract infection (6), and superficial surgical site infection (2).

Postoperative urinary incontinence was recorded in 23 dogs overall. Eleven dogs had grade 0 urinary incontinence. Urinary incontinence resolved completely in 3 additional dogs within 1-4 weeks postoperatively. In 1 dog, continence was maintained when treated with phenylpropanolamine. Eight dogs exhibited some degree of permanent urinary incontinence: grade 1 (n=2), grade 2 (3), grade 3 (1) and grade 4 (2). One of the dogs...
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with grade 4 urinary incontinence had pre-existing grade 4 urinary incontinence. Fifteen
dogs returned to complete urinary continence within 4 weeks; although recurrent urinary
incontinence, secondary to suspected local tumor recurrence, was recorded in 1 dog 148
days after surgery (Table 2). Some degree of post-operative urinary incontinence was
seen in 4 of 9 dogs with cystourethral anastomosis (one of which was pre-existing) and 4
of 11 dogs with urethrourethral anastomosis.

Histologic Diagnosis

Histologic examination of the excised prostate was performed in all dogs, with a report
available in 20 dogs. Diagnoses included transitional cell carcinoma (n=15),
adenocarcinoma (8), undifferentiated carcinoma (1), and papillary cystadenocarcinoma
(1). For the two dogs with sublumbar lymph node excision, one dog had evidence of
nodal metastasis and the other dog had a reactive lymph node.

Of the 20 dogs with histologic margin evaluation, 8 dogs had complete excision and 12
dogs had incomplete excision. Local recurrence was either suspected or confirmed in 3
dogs with complete histologic margins and in 4 dogs with incomplete margins. There was
no significant difference in the rate of local recurrence between dogs with complete
histologic margins compared to those with incomplete margins (P = 0.84). There was
histologically diagnosed extracapsular extension in 11 dogs and no evidence of
extracapsular extension in 9 dogs. There was no significant difference in the rate of local
recurrence between dogs with extracapsular extension and those without extracapsular
extension (P = 0.44). There was histologic evidence of lymphatic and/or vascular
invasion in 13 dogs and no evidence of lymphatic and/or vascular invasion in 7 dogs.
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Metastatic disease was either confirmed or suspected in 7 dogs with lymphatic and/or vascular invasion and in 2 dogs without lymphatic and/or vascular invasion. There was no significant difference in the rate of metastasis between dogs with lymphatic and/or vascular invasion compared to those without lymphatic and/or vascular invasion ($P = 0.29$).

There was no significant difference in MSTs between dogs with and without complete histologic margins or dogs with and without lymphatic and/or vascular invasion ($P = 0.23$ and $0.11$, respectively). The MST was significantly shorter in dogs with extracapsular extension compared to those with intracapsular tumors ($P = 0.02$) (Table 3).

**Adjuvant Therapy**

Twenty-one dogs received adjunctive therapy, including mitoxantrone and NSAIDs ($n=14$); NSAIDs alone (3); metronomic thalidomide, cyclophosphamide, and piroxicam (3); and carboplatin and deracoxib (1). Dosing and protocols were variable, but of the 15 dogs treated with curative-intent chemotherapy protocols, 10 dogs completed their targeted chemotherapy protocols. Of the five dogs that did not complete their protocols reasons for termination of the protocol were available for 3 dogs and were all due to the development of metastatic disease. Adverse effects were recorded for 2 dogs both of which were episodes of neutropenia during treatment with mitoxantrone and piroxicam which resolved with dose reduction of mitoxantrone.

One dog was treated with adjunctive radiation therapy to the local surgical site (27 Gy divided into 10 fractions of 2.7 Gy daily, Monday through Friday), starting 20 days following total prostatectomy and bilateral medial iliac lymphadenectomy.
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Clinical Outcome

Local tumor recurrence was confirmed in 3 dogs and suspected in 5 dogs. Metastatic disease was confirmed in 4 dogs and suspected in 9 dogs. Confirmed metastatic sites included lungs (n=1), sublumbar lymph nodes (1), sublumbar lymph nodes and pelvis (1), and lungs, pelvis, vertebrae, adrenal glands and sublumbar lymph nodes (1). Sites of suspected metastasis included lungs (6), skin (1), bone (1) and sublumbar lymph nodes (1).

Data to calculate the DFI was available for 14 dogs. The median DFI was 81.5 days (95% confidence interval (CI) 48.4-263, range 11.0-630 days). Data to calculate the median DFI was available for 5 dogs with suspected or confirmed local recurrence (median DFI 85.0 days, 95% CI 27.7-208.7, range 76-247) and 9 dogs with suspected or confirmed metastatic disease (median DFI 76.0 days, 95% CI 31.4-305, range 24.0-630). Two dogs with recurrent disease were still alive at the time of writing 65 and 190 days post-operatively.

Death was attributed to tumor-related causes in 19 dogs: local recurrence in 7 dogs (confirmed in 2 dogs and suspected in 5 dogs) and metastasis in 12 dogs (confirmed in 3 dogs and suspected in 9 dogs). Three dogs were euthanized for reasons unrelated to prostatic neoplasia. Two dogs were euthanized for clinical progression of chronic kidney disease; and 1 dog was euthanized for suspected degenerative myelopathy. Three dogs were still alive at the time of writing, ranging from 65-1255 days post-operatively.

The MST for all dogs was 231 days (95% CI 138-628, range 24-1255 days). The MST for dogs with prostatic transitional cell carcinoma was 189 days (95% CI 135-628, range
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34.0-664) and the MST for dogs with prostatic adenocarcinoma was 248 days (95% CI
169-789 days, range 24-1255 days). There was no significant difference in MSTs
between dogs with transitional cell carcinoma and adenocarcinoma (P = 0.27). The 1- and
2-year survival rates following total prostatectomy were 32% and 12% of dogs,
respectively.
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DISCUSSION

This report describes the surgical technique and outcome of dogs undergoing total prostatectomy for the treatment of prostatic carcinoma. The signalment and clinical presentation of dogs in the present study was similar to previous reports of dogs with prostatic tumors.\textsuperscript{6,29}

Total prostatectomy has been associated with an unacceptably high complication rate in previous studies in dogs.\textsuperscript{21, 23, 24-27} However, the majority of these studies included total prostatectomy for treatment of various prostatic diseases and only one specifically investigated total prostatectomy for treatment of prostatic neoplasia.\textsuperscript{21} In this study, survival times were short (range, 5-45 days) and the incidence of urinary incontinence was not described.\textsuperscript{21} However, urinary incontinence was the most common postoperative complication in other studies of total prostatectomy for dogs with prostatic diseases, with an incidence ranging from 33\%-100\%.\textsuperscript{24,26, 27} Permanent postoperative urinary incontinence was recorded in 34.8\% of dogs in the present study. The severity of urinary incontinence was subjectively graded based on owner and veterinary assessment. Of the 8 dogs with permanent urinary incontinence, 5 dogs had grade 1 or 2 urinary incontinence. A previous study classified the severity of urinary incontinence following total prostatectomy as minor if it only occurred with excitement or activity, and major if it was permanent.\textsuperscript{27} If this classification were used in the present study then only 17.4\% of dogs (4/23) would have been assessed to have major urinary incontinence. A grading system to describe the severity of urinary incontinence may assist owners in determining whether the postoperative outcome will be compatible with their expectations. Permanent urinary incontinence may lead to secondary complications such as recurrent urinary tract
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infection, pyelonephritis, and urine scalding; and owners should be aware of these possible sequelae.

Urinary incontinence has been assessed in both normal dogs and dogs with prostatic disease undergoing total prostatectomy.\textsuperscript{24,31} For dogs without prostatic disease, total prostatectomy does not result in urinary incontinence.\textsuperscript{31} However, in another study by the same authors, 93\% of dogs with prostatic disease had urinary incontinence following total prostatectomy with 54\% of these dogs having permanent incontinence.\textsuperscript{24} This suggests that the disease process itself may play a role in the development of urinary incontinence, and urinary incontinence may not solely be a consequence of the surgical technique. This is further supported by a study in which the surviving 3 dogs that underwent inadvertent prostatectomy during cryptorchidectomy did not have urinary incontinence following surgical correction.\textsuperscript{32} In normal dogs treated with total prostatectomy, there were minimal functional changes to the urinary tract, but there was a decrease in the maximal urethral closing pressure in these dogs.\textsuperscript{31} However, this decrease in maximal urethral closing pressure was not sufficient for urethral sphincter pressure to be overcome by intravesicular pressure.\textsuperscript{31} Dogs with prostatic disease have abnormally low external urethral sphincter pressures.\textsuperscript{24} This reduced external urethral sphincter pressure, in combination with a decrease in maximal urethral closing pressure following total prostatectomy, likely predisposes to urinary incontinence in dogs with prostatic disease.

Surgical technique may also influence the development of urinary incontinence post-total prostatectomy. The neurovascular supply to the bladder neck and prostatic urethra courses along the dorsal aspect of the prostate and disruption of this neurovascular supply
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during total prostatectomy may result in urinary incontinence postoperatively. Total prostatectomy was performed in all dogs in the present study with close attention to the dorsal dissection technique to minimize the risk of disrupting the innervation to the bladder neck and proximal urethra.

It is possible that the comparatively low rate of urinary incontinence in the present study is related to the primary pathology. However, it has been suggested that total prostatectomy in dogs with prostatic neoplasia may be associated with a higher incidence postoperative incontinence compared to other causes of prostatic pathology. The numbers in that study were small with only 3 of 9 dogs being diagnosed with prostatic neoplasia, two of which were carcinomas. Case selection may also have played in role in the lower rate of urinary incontinence in the present study as dogs may not have been deemed appropriate surgical candidates if there was gross disease extending beyond the prostatic capsule. This may have contributed to less aggressive dissection being required to excise the prostate thus limiting collateral damage to the surrounding neurovascular structures.

Adjunctive treatment was used in the majority of the dogs in this study, with 21 dogs receiving some form of adjunctive therapy following total prostatectomy. While no comment can be made on the adjunctive treatment protocol of choice, adjunctive treatment is still recommended for dogs with prostatic carcinoma because of the high risk of metastatic disease. Additionally, because very few dogs in this study were treated with total prostatectomy alone, no comparison of outcome for surgical intervention with and without adjunctive therapy can be made from this population.
There was no significant difference found between completeness of histologic margins or the presence extracapsular extension and local recurrence of prostatic carcinoma. There was no significant difference in MST between dogs with local recurrence of prostatic carcinoma compared to those without local recurrence; however the MST was significantly shorter for dogs with extracapsular extension compared to those with intracapsular tumors. The reason for this difference is unclear. Since there was no association found between extracapsular extension and local recurrence; or local recurrence and MST, it is unlikely that extracapsular extension contributed to the significant difference in MST as a consequence of an increased rate of local recurrence. Nonetheless the significantly shorter survival time of dogs with extracapsular extension indicates that this information may be of prognostic value.

There was no association found between the presence of lymphatic and/or vascular invasion at the time of surgery and the occurrence of metastatic disease. Likewise there was no association found between the presence of lymphatic and/or vascular invasion and MST. Overall metastatic disease was either suspected or confirmed in 13 of 25 dogs (52.0%). This is comparable to previous reports where metastasis to sublumbar lymph nodes, bone, and lungs was reported in 63–89% of dogs at the time of diagnosis. There was no significant difference in survival time between dogs with transitional cell carcinoma or adenocarcinoma. Some authors have referred to prostatic neoplasia with various morphologic features, such as glandular and urothelial differentiation, collectively as prostatic carcinoma as we have done in the present study. This may be reasonable given the lack of a proven objective means of differentiation. Given the similar morphologic features of prostatic adenocarcinoma and transitional cell carcinoma
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when assessed using light microscopy it may be difficult to distinguish the precise cell
origin. Immunohistochemical methods have been investigated for the purpose of
differentiating prostatic adenocarcinoma from transitional cell carcinoma but as yet a
valid method has not been found. Accurate classification of prostatic epithelial neoplasia
may be significant from a prognostic perspective though currently this remains
controversial.

The MST time for dogs undergoing total prostatectomy for prostatic carcinoma in this
study was 231 days (Figure 1). All dogs survived to discharge and almost one-third of
dogs survived longer than one year following total prostatectomy. A MST of 17 days was
reported in the only other study to report a MST following total prostatectomy in dogs
with prostatic neoplasia. Published survival times for prostatic carcinoma including
various other treatments range from 17 to 654 days (Table 4). However a
number of these studies included cases with urogenital carcinomas arising from locations
other than the prostate and did not provide separate analysis of survival for patients with
prostatic carcinoma alone.

The MST in this study population is markedly longer than that previously published for
dogs with prostatic carcinoma following total prostatectomy. The study by Vlasin, et al. reporting a MST of 17 days in dogs was prospective and randomised. This study design
may have contributed, in part, to the poor overall survival of those dogs as randomization
may have prevented selection of cases most appropriate for total prostatectomy. In
contrast the retrospective nature of our report may have resulted in reporting of cases
deemed more suitable for total prostatectomy by the surgeon. While no reported effort
was made to select cases with primary lesions under a certain size and without
extracapular extension or pre-existing metastatic disease, it is reasonable to assume that these factors played a role in case selection. Only one case in this study had documented metastatic disease prior to total prostatectomy.

The limitations of this study are shared with other multi-institutional retrospective studies. Medical records can be inaccurate or incomplete. There was no standardization of perioperative or adjunctive treatments, and the surgeons performing the procedure differed. The cause of death was only confirmed by post-mortem evaluation in 4 dogs.

Retrospective inference of the degree of post-operative urinary incontinence from owner and veterinarian descriptions may be inaccurate. Also, the power of statistical analyses performed was likely limited by the small sample size.

Based on our findings, total prostatectomy may be considered as a viable treatment option in dogs with prostatic neoplasia, particularly if presenting with urethral obstruction. However, we propose that case selection is likely to play an important role in postoperative complications and survival. Our study suggests that the incidence and severity of urinary incontinence in dogs with prostatic carcinoma treated with total prostatectomy may be lower and survival times longer than previously reported. Further prospective evaluation of risk factors for post-operative complications and outcome following total prostatectomy in dogs is necessary to determine appropriate case selection criteria.
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DISCLOSURE

The authors have no conflicts of interest related to this report.
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<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Dog always continent</td>
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*Modified from Byron, et al.*38
Figure 1 Kaplan-Meier survival curve for 25 dogs with prostatic carcinoma that underwent total prostatectomy. Dogs were censored from analysis if they were still alive at the time of writing or if they had died from causes unrelated to prostatic neoplasia.
Table: Signalment, surgery details, incontinence and outcome for dogs undergoing total prostatectomy

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<td>TCC</td>
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<td>UU</td>
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<td>PA</td>
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<td>UU</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>PA</td>
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<td>Labrador retriever</td>
<td>UU</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>TCC</td>
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<td>TCC</td>
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<td>24</td>
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<td>UU</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>TCC</td>
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<td>Euthanasia (confirmed local recurrence)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Labrador retriever</td>
<td>CU</td>
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<td>PCA</td>
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<td>330</td>
<td>Euthanasia (suspected metastasis)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Urethrourethral anastomosis (UU), cystourethral anastomosis (CC)
†Prostatic carcinoma (PA), transitional cell carcinoma (TCC), prostatic cystadenocarcinoma (PCA)
‡Modified from Byron et al.†§Had initial post-operative incontinence which resolve
¶No incontinence when on phenylpropanolamine. Incontinence recurred 148 days post-operatively, suspected secondary to local recurrence
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MST</th>
<th>With Lymphatic/vascular Invasion</th>
<th>Without Lymphatic/vascular Invasion</th>
<th>With Extracapsular Extension</th>
<th>Without Extracapsular Extension</th>
<th>With Complete Histologic Margins</th>
<th>Without Complete Histologic Margins</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MST</td>
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<td>138</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>172</td>
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<tr>
<td>95% CI</td>
<td>99.0-189</td>
<td>135-664</td>
<td>88.0-169</td>
<td>172-628</td>
<td>99.0-628</td>
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Table 4 Published Survival Times in Dogs with Prostatic Carcinoma

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>MST (range)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vlasin et al12</td>
<td>Total prostatectomy</td>
<td>17 days (5-45)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vlasin et al12</td>
<td>Subtotal intracapsular prostatectomy</td>
<td>130 days (2-220)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liptak et al13</td>
<td>Transurethral resection</td>
<td>32, 74, and 264 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L’Epplattenier et al10</td>
<td>Partial prostatectomy with Nd:YAG laser</td>
<td>103 days (5-239)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weisse et al11</td>
<td>Urethral stenting</td>
<td>20 days (6-105)†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L’Epplattenier et al14</td>
<td>Photodynamic therapy with 5-aminolevulinic acid</td>
<td>41 days (10-68)‡</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turrel et al9</td>
<td>Intraoperative radiation therapy</td>
<td>114 days (41-750)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nolan et al13*</td>
<td>Intensity modulated and image guided radiation therapy</td>
<td>654 days1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorenmo et al14</td>
<td>NSAIDS</td>
<td>6.9 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sorenmo et al14</td>
<td>Untreated</td>
<td>21 days</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Excluding the three dogs that died within 16 days MST = 183 (91-239)
†Survival time for all 12 dogs in this study (survival for cases with prostatic carcinoma not reported separately).
‡Survival time for all 21 dogs in this study (survival for cases with prostatic carcinoma were not reported separately).