Comparison of Preoperative Quantitative Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Clinical Assessment of Deep Pain Perception as Prognostic Tools for Early Recovery of Motor Function in Paraplegic Dogs with Intervertebral Disk Herniations

A. Wang-Leandro (a), J.S. Siedenburg (b), M.K. Hobert, P. Dziallas, K. Rohn, V.M. Stein, and A. Tipold

Background: Prognostic tools to predict early postoperative motor function recovery (MFR) after thoracolumbar intervertebral disk herniation (IVDH) in paraplegic dogs represent an opportunity to timely implement novel therapies that could shorten recovery times and diminish permanent neurological dysfunctions.

Hypothesis: Fractional anisotropy (FA) values obtained using diffusion tensor imaging have a higher prognostic value than a lesion extension ratio in T2-weighted images (T2W-LER) and clinical assessment of deep pain perception (DPP) for MFR.

Animals: Thirty-five paraplegic dogs with diagnosis of acute or subacute thoracolumbar IVDH.

Methods: Prospective, descriptive observational study. At admission, absence or presence of DPP, T2W-LER, and FA values was evaluated. MFR was assessed within 4 weeks after decompressive surgery. Values of T2W-LER and FA of dogs with and without MFR were compared using t-tests. All 3 methods were evaluated for their sensitivity and specificity as a prognostic factor.

Results: No differences were found between groups regarding T2W-LER. FA values differed statistically when measured caudally of lesion epicenter being higher in dogs without MFR compared to dogs with MFR (P = .023). Logistic regression analysis revealed significance in FA values measured caudally of the lesion epicenter (P = .033, area under the curve = 0.72). Using a cutoff value of FA = 0.660, the technique had a sensitivity of 80% and a specificity of 55%. Evaluation of DPP had a sensitivity of 73.3% and specificity of 75% (P = .007).

Conclusions and Clinical Importance: Evaluation of DPP showed a similar sensitivity and a better specificity predicting early MFR than quantitative magnetic resonance imaging.

Key words: Canine; Diffusion tensor imaging; Paraplegia; Spinal cord injury.

A
ctue thoracolumbar intervertebral disk herniation (IVDH) is a common neurological disease in dogs that may lead to permanent sensorimotor and visceral function impairments.¹ ³ Thoracolumbar IVDH occurs predominantly in chondrodystrophic dogs due to early degeneration of intervertebral disks and exerts a mixture of contusive and compressive forces to the spinal cord.⁴–⁶

Current treatment for paraplegic dogs with IVDH is focused on eliminating the source of primary mechanical damage and consists of surgical decompression of the spinal cord.⁷–¹⁰ However, shortly after the primary injury, a complex and dynamic cascade of cellular processes including inflammation, edema, ischemia, reactive species liberation, excitotoxicity, and microglial and astrocytic activation occur.¹¹–¹⁴ This spectrum of responses is known as the “secondary injury,” and it occurs seconds to weeks after the primary injury.¹²,¹³

Research on novel therapies is performed and aims to neutralize or diminish the effects of the early secondary

**Abbreviations:**

- AUC area under the curve
- DPP deep pain perception
- FA fractional anisotropy
- IVDH intervertebral disk herniation
- MRI magnetic resonance imaging
- ROC receiver-operating characteristics
- ROI region of interest
- SCI spinal cord injury
- SD standard deviation
- T2W-LER T2-weighted—lesion extension ratio
- T2W T2-weighted

- Copyright © 2017 The Authors, Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine published by Wiley Periodicals, Inc. on behalf of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine.

- This is an open access article under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial License, which permits use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited and is not used for commercial purposes.

- DOI: 10.1111/jvim.14715

- Accepted March 16, 2017, Published online October 20, 2016: Revised January 25, 2017.

- Corresponding author: A. Wang-Leandro, Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Foundation, Bünteweg 9, Hannover 30559, Germany; e-mail: adriano.wang@tiho-hannover.de.
wave of damage. Early motor function recovery (MFR) has been rarely explored as an outcome measurement, but represents an opportunity for timelier implementation of novel therapies that could shorten recovery times and contribute to diminish permanent neurological dysfunctions.

Assessment of deep pain perception (DPP) during neurological examination, composition of cell populations and biomarkers present in the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) and quantitative magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) have been formerly evaluated as prognostic factors for long-term functional recovery in dogs with thoracolumbar IVDH. Evaluation of DPP and length of intramedullary hyperintense signal in sagittal T2-weighted MRI were proven to be useful predictive tools for long-term MFR.

Diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) is a state-of-the-art modality of MRI that allows in vivo microstructural evaluation of white matter tracts by quantifying water molecule diffusion. DTI of the spinal cord has been increasingly applied for numerous diseases including SCI in different animal models and humans. Fractional anisotropy (FA) is a unitless value that ranges from 0 to 1. An FA equal to zero represents unrestricted directional diffusion of water molecules, and FA equal to one represents a completely restricted diffusion in only one possible direction. Therefore, highly organized tissues such as white matter tracts provide a homogeneous anisotropy for water molecule diffusion. Recently, feasibility of DTI of the canine healthy spinal cord has been reported and the tissue was characterized. As a correlation between parenchymal damage of the spinal cord and severity of neurological deficits was found by Henke and colleagues, the introduction of DTI as an objective clinical tool for assessment of structural integrity of the spinal cord may be valuable for preoperative determination of prognosis.

Therefore, the aim of this study was to evaluate the potential preoperative prognostic value for early MFR in a population of dogs with thoracolumbar IVDH using 3 techniques: measurement of the extension of spinal cord compression and hyperintensity in sagittal T2W sequences at the level of SCI, FA values obtained from DTI sequences, and clinical assessment of DPP. We hypothesize that DTI parameters will show a higher sensitivity and specificity than a lesion extension ratio in T2W images (T2W-LER) and assessment of DPP predicting postoperative MFR.

Materials and Methods

Animals

For this study, dogs admitted to the Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery of the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover between June 2013 and April 2015 were prospectively recruited. The dogs had to fulfill the following inclusion criteria: acute paraplegia (0–7 days since observed onset of clinical signs) or subacute paraplegia (8–28 days since onset of clinical signs). SCI confined to the T2-L spinal cord segments and a body weight <20 kg. Onset of clinical signs was defined and recorded as the time point when owners noticed a nonambulatory state of their dog. Time elapsed between nonambulatory state of the dog and admission to the clinic was used for classification of acute and subacute paraplegia. At admission, each dog underwent a physical and neurological evaluation, plain radiographic imaging of the thoracic and lumbar vertebral column and MRI of the thoracolumbar spinal cord to diagnose IVDH. Furthermore, complete blood workup, serum biochemistry, and CSF analysis were performed to exclude differential diagnoses. IVDH was confirmed during surgery, all dogs were treated with decompressive surgery of the spinal cord, and appearance of MFR was documented within 4 weeks thereafter. Dogs were excluded from the study, if a compression caudal to the L4 vertebral body or neurological deficits compatible with a lower motor neuron lesion were present. Postoperative MFR was noted, when dogs regained voluntary movement of the hindlimbs together with presence of DPP within 4 weeks after decompressive surgery and was recorded as a dichotomous outcome (yes or no). This study was performed after the approval of the German Animal Welfare instances (Number: 33.9-42502-04-11/0661) and the written owners’ consent for each examination.

Assessment of Deep Pain Perception

Dogs were tested for presence or absence of DPP during clinical evaluation. Presence of DPP was defined as an obvious and reproducible behavioral response that could be interpreted as pain toward a noxious stimulus (ie, whining, sudden turning the head, and/or biting attempts toward the source of stimulus). For the test, digits of both hindlimbs were clamped using forceps.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Magnetic resonance imaging scans were performed under general anesthesia using a 3 tesla scanner and protocols consisted of sagittal and transversal T2W and transversal DTI sequences as previously reported. T2-weighted images sequences were assessed by board certified neurologists (AT, VS, or both) to determine localization of SCI for subsequent surgical procedures. Lesion extension ratio in T2W images (T2W-LER) was defined as lengths of spinal cord compression and intramedullary hyperintense signal expressed as a ratio in relation to length of vertebral body of L2. T2-weighted—lesion extension ratio was evaluated in sagittal planes using commercially available software.

Moreover, T2W images were used as templates for placement of regions of interest (ROIs) in transversal DTI sequences using a DTI software tool. Regions of interest were placed in signals deriving from the spinal cord in FA maps directly dorsally of intervertebral disk spaces at the epicenter of the lesion and one vertebral body cranial and caudal to the epicenter. Epicenters were defined as spinal cord segments with compression evidenced in T2W sequences. As a clear differentiation between gray and white matter can be challenging in the lesioned spinal cord even evaluating conventional T2W sequences, ROIs were positioned in the whole spinal cord parenchyma, as reported previously. Regions of interest were placed using individual voxels, sized 1.65 x 1.65 x 2 mm, to avoid measuring diffusion metrics deriving from CSF or epidural fat. Afterward, voxels were fused and values of FA were obtained from each ROI.

Statistical Analysis

Dogs were divided into 2 groups: dogs with and without postoperative MFR. Age and body weight between groups were compared via t-tests. Variance analyses for FA values at each independent localization were performed. Significances in logistic
regression analyses were calculated and receiver-operating characteristics (ROC) curves were plotted to assess and describe validity of FA and T2W-LER measurements and Youden indices were applied for significances found in order to set a cutoff point. Sensitivity and specificity of DPP was calculated as a dichotomous model using Fisher’s exact test. False positives were defined as dogs presenting intact DPP or quantitative MRI values below the cutoff point and showing no MFR. Furthermore, false negatives were defined as dogs presenting absent DPP or quantitative MRI values above the cutoff point and showing early MFR. Continuous variables were depicted descriptively as mean (±standard deviation; SD) for normally distributed variables. Significance level was considered as \( P < .05 \). Power and sample size calculation, analysis of data, and graphic generation were performed using statistical software.d,e,f

Results

Animals

Thirty-five dogs, 19 males and 16 females, fulfilled the inclusion criteria. Thirty-three dogs presented an acute and 2 dogs a subacute SCI due to IVDH. The mean time between onset of nonambulatory status and preoperative clinical examination was 2.2 days (median 1 day, range 0–22 days). Most dogs were Dachshunds with 17 individuals and 7 mixed-breed dogs. Furthermore, 3 French bulldogs, 2 Jack Russell Terrier, 2 Shih-Tzu and 1 dog of each of the following breeds were included: Chihuahua, small Munsterlander pointer, and Lhasa Apso. Twenty dogs showed early MFR within 4 weeks after surgical decompression of the spinal cord, whereas 15 dogs did not improve. No differences in age, weight, or time since onset of clinical signs were found between groups (Table 1). Most common localizations for IVDH were Th12/13 and Th13/L1 with 10 cases each.

T2W—Lesion Extension Ratio

Mean T2W-LER measured from dogs without postoperative MFR was 4.46 ± 1.73 and with postoperative MFR 3.33 ± 1.96. Variance analysis revealed no significant differences between dogs with and without MFR after decompressive surgery \( (P = .085) \). Logistic regression analysis displayed no significant differences for prediction of early MFR between groups \( (P = .097) \). ROC curves displayed an area under the curve (AUC) = 0.73 (Fig 1).

|               | MFR (n = 20) | No MFR (n = 15) | \( P \) |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|-------|
| Age (years; mean ± SD) | 5.5 ± 2.8 | 6.8 ± 3.5 | .22   |
| Body weight (kg; mean ± SD) | 9.8 ± 4.2 | 9.2 ± 3.1 | .70   |
| Time between onset of nonambulatory status and clinical examination (days; mean ± SD) | 2.9 ± 5.2 | 1.3 ± 2.0 | .28   |

MFR, motor function recovery; SD, standard deviation.

Fractional Anisotropy

Mean values of FA obtained at the level of epicenters were 0.764 ± 0.067 and 0.775 ± 0.073 for dogs with...
postoperative MFR and without postoperative MFR, respectively. One vertebral body cranially, mean FA value from dogs with MFR was 0.714 ± 0.104, whereas in dogs without MFR values of 0.741 ± 0.093 were determined. Furthermore, measurements of FA one vertebral body caudally to epicenters had a mean of 0.658 ± 0.093 for dogs with MFR and 0.735 ± 0.094 for dogs without MFR. Variance analysis showed no significant differences between groups at lesion epicenters (P = .95) and one vertebral body cranial to the epicenter (P = .44); however, significant differences in FA were evidenced in the spinal cord one vertebral body caudal to the epicenters (P = .023).

Similarly, logistic regression analysis of FA values to predict postoperative MFR revealed no significant differences between groups at the level of epicenters (P = .63, ROC curve AUC = 0.57) and one vertebral body cranially (P = .43, ROC curve AUC = 0.57). Nonetheless, a significant difference was found caudal to the epicenter (P = .033, ROC curve AUC = 0.72; Fig 1). Youden index calculations applied to FA values caudal to the lesion epicenter revealed a sensitivity of 80% (CI 95%, 51.9–95.7%) and a specificity of 55% (CI 95%, 31.5–76.9%) for prediction of negative outcome using a cutoff value of FA >0.660.

**Deep Pain Perception**

Evaluation of DPP before decompressive surgery revealed a positive response in 19 dogs and a negative response in 16 dogs. About 79% of dogs with intact DPP (15/19) and 31% of dogs with absent DPP (5/16) developed postoperative MFR within 4 weeks after decompressive surgery. Table 2 describes the distribution of paraplegic dogs according to presence or absence of DPP, early MFR, and elapsed time between onset of clinical signs and admission to the clinic.

Fisher’s exact test for evaluation of DPP as a prognostic tool for lack of early functional recovery displayed a significance of P = .007, sensitivity of 73.3% (CI 95%, 50.9–95.7%), and specificity of 75% (CI 95%, 56–94%).

**Discussion**

This study prospectively evaluates preoperative measurements of spinal cord lesion extension in conventional T2W MRI sequences, DTI parameters, and clinical assessment of DPP as prognostic factors for early MFR in a population of paraplegic dogs with acute and subacute SCI. Dogs were tested for presence or absence of DPP, length of SCI was measured in sagittal T2W sequences, and values of FA were obtained from epicenter of the lesion and one vertebral body cranially and caudally. After decompressive surgery, neurological examinations were repeated and data from dogs with and without postoperative MFR within 4 weeks were compared.

Evaluation of prognostic tools for early MFR in paraplegic dogs with IVDH has been uncommonly reported.20,24 Establishment of clinical tools that could provide a prognostic value in the time window of early MFR may have an impact on timely selection of patients with unfavorable prognosis for early implementation of novel therapies.

In the population of affected dogs, Dachshund was the breed presented the most and Th12/13 and Th13/L1 occurred most frequently as localization of thoracolumbar IVDH, in ten and eleven cases, respectively, as previously reported.8,23,42,43 Chondrodystrophic breeds such as Dachshunds are frequently affected by early degeneration of intervertebral disks and presence of intercapital ligaments may partially prevent intervertebral disks to herniate in cranial segments of the thoracic vertebral column.2–5,23,42,44,45

Assessment of DPP remains an accepted and commonly applied test for prognosis of recovery in paraplegic dogs with IVDH,26 although its performance and interpretation have been considered as controversial.46,47 For long-term functional recovery, presence of DPP in nonambulatory dogs with thoracolumbar IVDH is associated with positive outcomes in nearly 100% of the cases;2,39,48 however, absence of DPP has been correlated with a recovery rate of approximately 50%.2,6,25,39

A clear difference is detected in the current study with lower accuracy of DPP to predict early MFR in comparison with formerly reported prediction of long-term MFR. Late-onset recovery of ambulation in paraplegic dogs with IVDH after surgical decompression can appear up to 6 months thereafter and ranges from 13.4% to 31.8% of which some dogs regain ambulation without regaining DPP.2 However, for early application of novel treatment strategies in dogs which would fail standard therapy, prediction of early MFR becomes useful and necessary allowing selection of target populations.

Values of T2W-LER displayed no significant differences between dogs with and without early MFR. This finding contrasts previous studies, where longer

**Table 2.** Temporal distribution of dogs at admission time point, motor function recovery (MFR), and presence or absence of deep pain perception (DPP).

| Time between onset of nonambulatory status and clinical examination | MFR (n = 20) | No MFR (n = 15) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 0-1 day                                                       | 11 (58%)    | 2 (13%)        |
| 2-3 days                                                     | 0 (0%)      | 2 (13%)        |
| >3 days                                                      | 4 (21%)     | 1 (6%)         |
| 0-1 day                                                       | 3 (16%)     | 8 (50%)        |
| 2-3 days                                                     | 0 (0%)      | 1 (6%)         |
| >3 days                                                      | 1 (5%)      | 2 (13%)        |

MFR, motor function recovery; DPP, deep pain perception.
intramedullary hyperintensities in sagittal T2W sequences were predictive for unfavorable long-term outcome using 0.3 and 1 tesla magnetic fields,\cite{3,8,21,23} Use of high-field MRI leads to increase in signal-to-noise ratio and consequently to a change in image resolution;\cite{49} therefore, mild intramedullary hyperintensities in sagittal T2W sequences may be more frequently evident using 3 tesla magnetic fields.\cite{5,8,21,23} Presence of intramedullary T2W hyperintensities during acute and subacute stages of SCI is assumed to be a consequence of edema, hemorrhage, and necrosis.\cite{6,50} This study intended not only to quantify hyperintense signal in sagittal T2W sequences but the complete extension of the SCI, including length of intramedullary intensity changes as well as extramedullary spinal cord compressions. However, preoperative T2W-LERs seem not to be of prognostic value for early MFR using high-field MRI. Based on the previous literature evaluating early MFR,\cite{41,51} a sample size of 44 paraplegic dogs, 22 per group, was calculated to detect differences between groups with an alpha level of 0.05 and power of 0.80 using DPP as gold standard technique. Although the initial calculated sample size could not be reached, achieved statistical power for DPP and FA was 0.81 and 0.79, respectively. However, the achieved power for T2W-LER within the population evaluated reached only 0.60, and therefore, a type II statistical error could influence the data concerning T2W-LER.

To the author’s knowledge, this study is the first report to evaluate DTI parameters as prognostic tool for MFR in paraplegic dogs with IVDH. Increased preoperative FA values were found in vertebral body caudal to the lesion epicenter in dogs without MFR compared to dogs that showed MFR suggesting the occurrence of cytotoxic edema and axonal swelling.\cite{52,54} Although a difference was found, the ability of DTI parameters to predict early MFR was lower than evaluating DPP preoperatively, displaying a similar sensitivity but a remarkably lower specificity. Therefore, the assessment of preoperative DTI parameters did not offer benefits over DPP assessment of SCI.

Differentiation between gray and white matter in the compressed and lesioned spinal cord is challenging, even in conventional MRI sequences. Attempts to independently measure DTI metrics from white and gray matter using clinically applicable protocols could lead to partial volume effects;\cite{55} therefore, ROIs were placed in both gray and white matter, and were positioned equally in all patients. Albeit no intramedullary signal voidance was noticed in T2* sequences, foci of intramedullary hemorrhage may have an impact in diffusion metrics.\cite{56}

In conclusion, ability to predict early postoperative MFR was evaluated for clinical assessment of DPP, sagittal T2W sequences, and DTI parameters of the spinal cord of paraplegic dogs with acute and subacute IVDH. The hypothesis could not be proven that DTI shows a higher sensitivity and specificity than a lesion extension ratio in T2W images (T2W-LER) and assessment of DPP predicting postoperative MFR. In fact, presence of intact DPP had a similar sensitivity and a better specificity in predicting early functional recovery than quantitative MRI, herewith still emphasizing the importance of clinical examination.

Footnotes

\footnotetext[1]{Philips Achieva, Philips Medical Systems, Eindhoven, The Netherlands}
\footnotetext[2]{EasyVET, Version 8.0.0.03/R3, Isernhagen, Germany}
\footnotetext[3]{Extended MR workspace, Version 2.6.3.4, Philips Medical Systems, The Netherlands}
\footnotetext[4]{G*Power, version 3.1.9.2, University of Duesseldorf, Germany}
\footnotetext[5]{SAS software, version 9.2, SAS Institute, Cary, NC}
\footnotetext[6]{GraphPad Prism, version 5, GraphPad Software, CA}

Acknowledgment

We thank the “Gesellschaft der Freunde der Tierärztlichen Hochschule Hannover” and the “Akademie für Tiergesundheit” for financial support given to the first author.

Grant Support: The present project was partly supported by the German Research Foundation (FOR 1103, project TI 309/4-2).

Conflict of Interest Declaration: Andrea Tipold serves as Associate Editor for the Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine. She was not involved in review of this manuscript.

Off-label Antimicrobial Declaration: Authors declare no off-label use of antimicrobials.

References

1. Fluehmann G, Doherr MG, Jaggy A. Canine neurological diseases in a referral hospital population between 1989 and 2000 in Switzerland. J Small Anim Pract 2006;47:582–587.
2. Aikawa T, Fujita H, Kanazono S, et al. Long-term neurologic outcome of hemilaminectomy and disk fenestration for treatment of dogs with thoracolumbar intervertebral disk herniation: 831 cases (2000–2007). J Am Vet Med Assoc 2012;241:1617–1626.
3. Olby N, Levine J, Harris T, et al. Long-term functional outcome of dogs with severe injuries of the thoracolumbar spinal cord: 87 cases (1996–2001). J Am Vet Med Assoc 2003;222:762–769.
4. Hansen HJ. A pathologic-anatomical study on disc degeneration in dog, with special reference to the so-called enchondrosis intervertebralis. Acta Orthop Scand Suppl 1952;11:1–17.
5. Smolders LA, Bergknut N, Grinwis GC, et al. Intervertebral disc degeneration in the dog. Part 2: enchondrolytic and non-enchondrolytic breeds. Vet J 2013;195:292–299.
6. Jeffery ND, Levine JM, Olby NJ, et al. Intervertebral disc degeneration in dogs: consequences, diagnosis, treatment, and future directions. J Vet Intern Med 2013;27:1318–1333.
7. Kube SA, Olby NJ. Managing acute spinal cord injuries. Compend Contin Educ Vet 2008;30:496–504; quiz 504, 506.
8. Brisson BA. Intervertebral disc disease in dogs. Vet Clin North Am Small Anim Pract 2010;40:829–858.
9. Scott HW. Hemilaminectomy for the treatment of thoracolumbar disc disease in the dog: a follow-up study of 40 cases. J Small Anim Pract 1997;38:488–494.

10. McKee WM. A comparison of hemilaminectomy (with concomitant disc fenestration) and dorsal laminectomy for the treatment of thoracolumbar disc protrusion in dogs. Vet Rec 1992;130:296–300.

11. Kwon BK, Tetzlaff W, Grauer JN, et al. Pathophysiology and pharmacologic treatment of acute spinal cord injury. Spine J 2004;4:451–464.

12. Silva NA, Sousa N, Reis RL, et al. From basics to clinical: a comprehensive review on spinal cord injury. Prog Neurobiol 2014;114:25–57.

13. Bock P, Spitzbarth I, Haist V, et al. Spatio-temporal development of axonopathy in canine intervertebral disc disease as a translational large animal model for nonexperimental spinal cord injury. Brain Pathol 2013;23:82–99.

14. Spitzbarth I, Bock P, Haist V, et al. Prominent microglial activation in the early proinflammatory immune response in naturally occurring canine spinal cord injury. J Neuropathol Exp Neurol 2011;70:703–714.

15. Hagg T, Ouédraogo M. Degenerative and spontaneous regenerative processes after spinal cord injury. J Neurotrauma 2006;23:264–280.

16. Granger N, Franklin RJ, Jeffery ND. Cell therapy for spinal cord injuries: what is really going on? Neuroscientist 2014;20:623–638.

17. Raspa A, Pugliese R, Malek M, et al. Recent therapeutic approaches for spinal cord injury. Biotechnol Bioeng 2016;113:253–259.

18. Ito D, Matsunaga S, Jeffery ND, et al. Prognostic value of magnetic resonance imaging in dogs with paralysis caused by thoracolumbar intervertebral disc extrusion: 77 cases (2000–2003). J Am Vet Med Assoc 2005;227:1454–1460.

19. Levine GJ, Cook JR, Kerwin SC, et al. Relationships between cerebrospinal fluid characteristics, injury severity, and functional outcome in dogs with and without intervertebral disc herniation. Vet Clin Pathol 2014;43:437–446.

20. Roerig A, Carlson R, Tipold A, et al. Cerebrospinal fluid tau protein as a biomarker for severity of spinal cord injury in dogs with intervertebral disc herniation. Vet J 2013;197:253–258.

21. Boekhoff TM, Flieshurt C, Ensinger EM, et al. Quantitative magnetic resonance imaging characteristics: evaluation of prognostic value in the dog as a translational model for spinal cord injury. J Spinal Disord Tech 2012;25:E81–E87.

22. Wiltsberger TH, Levine JM, Fosgate GT, et al. Associations between cerebrospinal fluid biomarkers and long-term neurologic outcome in dogs with acute intervertebral disc herniation. J Am Vet Med Assoc 2012;240:555–562.

23. Levine JM, Fosgate GT, Chen AV, et al. Magnetic resonance imaging in dogs with neurologic impairment due to acute thoracic and lumbar intervertebral disc herniation. J Vet Intern Med 2009;23:1220–1226.

24. Penning V, Platt SR, Dennis R, et al. Association of spinal cord compression seen on magnetic resonance imaging with clinical outcome in 67 dogs with thoracolumbar intervertebral disc extrusion. J Small Anim Pract 2006;47:644–650.

25. Jeffery ND, Barker AK, Hu HZ, et al. Factors associated with recovery from paraplegia in dogs with loss of pain perception in the pelvic limbs following intervertebral disc herniation. J Am Vet Med Assoc 2016;248:386–394.

26. Beaulieu C. The basis of anisotropic water diffusion in the nervous system – a technical review. NMR Biomed 2002;15:435–455.

27. Vedantam A, Jirjis MB, Schmit BD, et al. Diffusion tensor imaging of the spinal cord: insights from animal and human studies. Neurosurgery 2014;74:1–8; discussion 8; quiz 8.

28. Sasiadek MJ, Szewczyk P, Bladowska J. Application of diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) in pathological changes of the spinal cord. Med Sci Monit 2012;18:Ra73–Ra79.

29. Li XH, Li JB, He XJ, et al. Timing of diffusion tensor imaging in the acute spinal cord injury of rats. Sci Rep 2015;5:12639.

30. Martin AR, Aleksanderek I, Cohen-Adad J, et al. Translating state-of-the-art spinal cord MRI techniques to clinical use: a systematic review of clinical studies utilizing DTI, MT, MWF, MRS, and fMRI. NeuroImage Clin 2016;10:192–238.

31. Hendrix P, Griesenauer CJ, Cohen-Adad J, et al. Spinal diffusion tensor imaging: a comprehensive review with emphasis on spinal cord anatomy and clinical applications. Clin Anat 2015;28:88–95.

32. Lerner A, Mogensen MA, Kim PE, et al. Clinical applications of diffusion tensor imaging. World Neurosurg 2014;82:96–109.

33. Hobert MK, Stein VM, Dziallas P, et al. Evaluation of normal appearing spinal cord by diffusion tensor imaging, fiber tracking, fractional anisotropy, and apparent diffusion coefficient measurement in 13 dogs. Acta Vet Scand 2013;55:36.

34. Griffin JFT, Cohen ND, Young BD, et al. Thoracic and lumbar spinal cord diffusion tensor imaging in dogs. J Magn Reson Imaging 2013;37:632–641.

35. Yoon H, Park NW, Ha YM, et al. Diffusion tensor imaging of white and grey matter within the spinal cord of normal Beagle dogs: sub-regional differences of the various diffusion parameters. Vet J 2016;215:110–117.

36. Henke D, Van de Velde MD, Doehr MG, et al. Correlations between severity of clinical signs and histopathological changes in 60 dogs with spinal cord injury associated with acute thoracolumbar intervertebral disc disease. Vet J 2015;198:70–75.

37. Griffin JF, Davis MC, Ji JX, et al. Quantitative magnetic resonance imaging in a naturally occurring canine model of spinal cord injury. Spinal Cord 2015;53:278–284.

38. Hu R, Zhou J, Luo C, et al. Glial scar and neuroregeneration: histological, functional, and magnetic resonance imaging analysis in chronic spinal cord injury. J Neurosurg Spine 2010;13:169–180.

39. Ruddle TL, Allen DA, Schelter ER, et al. Outcome and prognostic factors in non-ambulatory Hansen Type I intervertebral disc extrusions: 308 cases. Vet Comp Orthop Traumatol 2006;19:29–34.

40. Mulcahey MJ, Samdani A, Gaughan J, et al. Diffusion tensor imaging in pediatric spinal cord injury: preliminary examination of reliability and clinical correlation. Spine 2012;37:E797–E803.

41. Chamisha Y, Aroch I, Kuzi S, et al. The prognostic value of cerebrospinal fluid characteristics in dogs without deep pain perception due to thoracolumbar disc herniation. Res Vet Sci 2015;100:189–196.

42. Olby N, Harris T, Burr J, et al. Recovery of pelvic limb function in dogs following acute intervertebral disc herniations. J Neurotrauma 2004;21:49–59.

43. Tanaka H, Nakayama M, Takase K. Usefulness of myelography with multiple views in diagnosis of circumferential location of disc material in dogs with thoracolumbar intervertebral disc herniation. J Vet Med Sci 2004;66:827–833.

44. Priester WA. Canine intervertebral disc disease – Occurrence by age, breed, and sex among 8,117 cases. Theriogenology 1997;6:293–303.

45. Brissin BA, Moffatt SL, Swayne SL, et al. Recurrence of thoracolumbar intervertebral disc extrusion in chondrodystrophic dogs after surgical decompression with or without prophylactic fenestration: 265 cases (1995–1999). J Am Vet Med Assoc 2004;224:1808–1814.
46. Thomovsky S, Chen-Allen AV. Will he walk again? Only Dr. Nociception knows! Vet J 2013;198:7–8.
47. Speciale J. Common method for pain perception may be inappropriate. J Am Vet Med Assoc 2003;222:1502–1503; author reply 1503.
48. Davis GJ, Brown DC. Prognostic indicators for time to ambulation after surgical decompression in nonambulatory dogs with acute thoracolumbar disk extrusions: 112 cases. Vet Surg 2002;31:513–518.
49. Dahmoush HM, Vossough A, Roberts TP. Pediatric high-field magnetic resonance imaging. Neuroimaging Clin N Am 2012;22:297–313, xi.
50. Kulkarni MV, McArdle CB, Kopanicky D, et al. Acute spinal cord injury: MR imaging at 1.5 T. Radiology 1987;164:837–843.
51. Song RB, Oldach MS, Basso DM, et al. A simplified method of walking track analysis to assess short-term locomotor recovery after acute spinal cord injury caused by thoracolumbar intervertebral disc extrusion in dogs. Vet J 2016;210:61–67.
52. Facon D, Ozanne A, Fillard P, et al. MR diffusion tensor imaging and fiber tracking in spinal cord compression. AJNR Am J Neuroradiol 2005;26:1587–1594.
53. Wilde EA, McCauley SR, Hunter JV, et al. Diffusion tensor imaging of acute mild traumatic brain injury in adolescents. Neurology 2008;70:948–955.
54. Henry LC, Tremblay J, Tremblay S, et al. Acute and chronic changes in diffusivity measures after sports concussion. J Neurotrauma 2011;28:2049–2059.
55. Jones DK, Cercignani M. Twenty-five pitfalls in the analysis of diffusion MRI data. NMR Biomed 2010;23:803–820.
56. Cheran S, Shanmuganathan K, Zhuo J, et al. Correlation of MR diffusion tensor imaging parameters with ASIA motor scores in hemorrhagic and nonhemorrhagic acute spinal cord injury. J Neurotrauma 2011;28:1881–1892.