

Preputial urolithiasis in a rabbit

A 5-year-old pet rabbit was presented with a large mass in the preputial sac which was painful on palpation. The mass was firm and resulted in distension of the prepuce (Fig 1A). Blood analyses showed no alteration apart from a slight increase of lymphocytes. Serum biochemistry results showed 14.5 mg/dL calcium (physiological range: 8 to 14.8) and 2.5 mg/dL phosphorus (physiological range 2.3 to 6.9). Four uroliths were visualised in the preputial area on radiographs (Fig 1B). The rabbit was anaesthetised and all calculi were removed from the prepuce through a small incision (Fig 1C). Antibiotic (5 mg/kg q12h enrofloxacin) and anti-inflammatory (0.5 mg/kg q24h meloxicam) were orally administered for 6 and 3 days, respectively. The uroliths were rounded, yellowish to white, compact, with a diameter of about 2 and 0.5 cm, respectively (Fig 1D). Chemical analyses confirmed the stones as agglomerates of calcium carbonate crystals. Urolithiasis is a pathological condition which is diagnosed more often in middle-aged and old rabbits. It is believed that the

physiological calciuria of rabbits may predispose to the onset of urolithiasis, but several secondary factors such as dehydration, diet with high calcium content, obesity and pathological conditions that interfere with calcium metabolism may result in the abnormal accumulation of insoluble calcium carbonate crystals in the urinary tract. Urolithiasis may occur in the urinary bladder, in the kidneys or in the ureters. Preputial retention of uroliths is an uncommon presentation in rabbits.

E. CIRCELLA¹, G. CASALINO, R. LOMBARDI,
S. CICCARELLI AND A. CAMARDA

Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Bari "Aldo Moro", S. P. Casamassima km. 3, Valenzano, Bari 70100, Italy

¹Corresponding author email: elena.circella@uniba.it

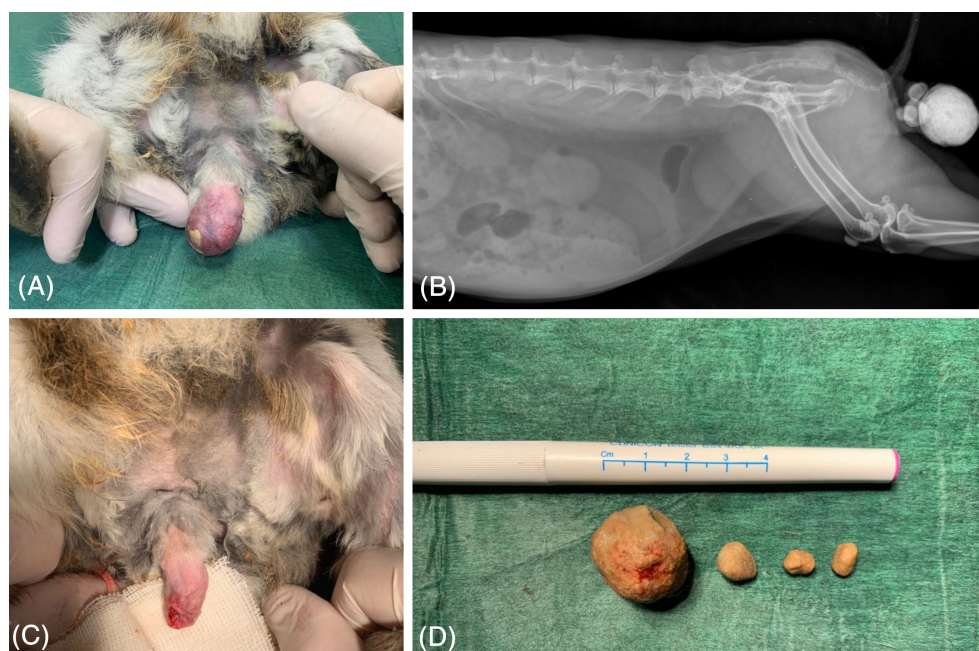


FIG 1. Macroscopic lesion observed at clinical examination (A). Lateral radiograph showing the radiopaque calculi (B). Preputial area after the removal of the calculi (C). Size of the removed calculi (D)