

© 2010 Universities Federation for Animal Welfare
The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead,
Hertfordshire AL4 8AN, UK

Animal Welfare 2010, 19: 437-448
ISSN 0962-7286

Relationships between pathology and pain severities: a review

NG Gregory

Royal Veterinary College, Hatfield, Herts AL9 7TA, UK; email: ngregory@rvc.ac.uk

Abstract

The relationships between pathology severity and pain severity are reviewed using the literature available for humans. The aim is to help veterinary radiologists, physicians and pathologists recognise the disorders in which severity of a lesion is likely to be related to the severity of pain or to incipient pain. Specific features or lesions within the following conditions showed a relationship with pain score, which was usually assessed with a visual analogue scale: inflammation; pancreatitis; ileitis; mucositis; fasciitis; synovitis; arthritis; lower back pain; disc herniation; sciatica; scoliosis; myalgia; cancer; arteriosclerosis; skin ulcers; mastalgia; skin and oral neuropathies; endometriosis; hepatopathy and chronic pulp diseases of the teeth. As experience with magnetic resonance imaging grows, there will be further opportunities to look for quantitative relationships in humans between pathology and pain severities. This information will be useful to veterinarians and other people working with animals in evaluating pain in animals in their care.

Keywords: *animal welfare, correlation, disease, human, pain, pathology*