ATYPICAL CLINICAL PRESENTATION OF A METASTATIC GASTRIC NEUROENDOCRINE CARCINOMA IN A BEARDED DRAGON (*Pogona vitticeps*)

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ABSTRACT

Ultrasound revealed the presence of three coelomic masses and multiple liver nodules in a 3-yr-old male bearded dragon (*Pogona vitticeps*) with anorexia. Histology revealed the presence of neoplastic cells consistent with a neuroendocrine origin in the surgically removed coelomic masses and gastroscopy demonstrated the presence of a gastric ulcerative lesion. Based on these findings, the presumptive diagnosis of neoplasia consistent with a gastric neuroendocrine carcinoma with multiple metastatic implants was made. Necropsy and subsequent histopathologic examination of the gastric lesion confirmed the diagnosis of a gastric neuroendocrine carcinoma. In contrast to nonspecific clinical signs observed in the few reported cases of gastric neuroendocrine carcinoma, this case description emphasizes the need for the clinical practitioner to consider a gastric neuroendocrine carcinoma as the primary cause of metastatic masses in the coelomic cavity of bearded dragons.