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Original Article

Use of transfer learning to detect diffuse degenerative hepatic diseases from ultrasound images in dogs: A methodological study

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Highlights

- A deep convolutional neural network (DNN) to detect liver degeneration was developed using a transfer learning methodology.
- The diagnostic accuracy of the DNN was compared to that of alanine transaminase, aspartate transaminase and of cytology.
- A binary classification of the samples was used (non-degenerative versus degenerative).
- The developed DNN displayed a moderate diagnostic accuracy in the detection of liver degeneration.
- The developed DNN outperformed all other non-invasive tests that displayed a very low diagnostic accuracy.

Abstract

The aim of this methodological study was to develop a deep convolutional neural network (DNN) to detect degenerative hepatic disease from ultrasound images of the liver in dogs and to compare the diagnostic accuracy of the newly developed DNN with that of serum biochemistry and cytology on the same samples, using histopathology as a standard. Dogs with suspected hepatic disease that had no prior history of neoplastic disease, no hepatic nodular pathology, no ascites and ultrasonography performed 24 h prior to death were included in the

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