TITLE:

Validation of a laparoscopic abdominal simulator assessment tool as a predictor of in vivo performance of laparoscopic ovariectomy in live dogs in 4th year veterinary students

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ABSTRACT: *300 word limit (when applicable, please include: purpose & background, methods, results, conclusions/discussion)*

Background:
Minimally invasive surgery (MIS) has become the standard of care for numerous procedures in human medicine; following this acceptance, MIS has drastically gained popularity in veterinary medicine. MIS requires a completely different set of skills than general surgery therefore comprehensive training is crucial. Simulation has become the standard for laparoscopy training in human medicine and has been accepted into veterinary medicine. However, no instrument has been validated in veterinary medicine to predict laparoscopic surgical performance on a live dog. This gap in knowledge affects our ability to compare training programs and prevents accurate determination of trainees' readiness to advance to the operating suite, thus potentially exposing patients to unnecessary risk. The objective of this study is to validate a laparoscopic abdominal simulator assessment tool as a predictor of in vivo performance of laparoscopic ovariectomy.
Hypothesis and purpose
Our hypotheses are that in vitro scores will be reproducible between observers and will correlate highly with in vivo scores.
Methods: We will test these hypotheses by comparing performance scores on the simulator to performance scores in a live dog by the same 4th year veterinary students. We expect that all participants scoring above the cut-off value on the simulator will successfully complete a laparoscopic ovariectomy.
Clinical application: This outcome is important because this tool will serve to differentiate trainees ready for laparoscopic surgery on live dogs in training programs. These results will advance laparoscopic training in the veterinary realm and improve patient safety in teaching centers.
Results, conclusions/discussion: Project and data collection are currently in progress. Preliminary results and conclusion will be available and presented during the June 2019 conference at UC Davis.