Injection Site Sarcoma

Presentation:
Adult cat (7-9 years) with an enlarging skin mass

Associated with
- Inactivated (killed) vaccines – adjuvant (Rabies, FeLV)
- Other injections, multiple injections one site

Locally aggressive, invasive, high recurrence, low metastasis

Test of choice:
- Incisional biopsy
- Consultation with board-certified oncologist and surgeon

Rx of choice:
- Aggressive surgical excision with complete margins
- Radiation therapy treats microscopic disease
- First treatment has greatest chance of successful outcome

Prognosis: Depends on stage, location, ability to resect w/margins, & if metastases are present

Prevention: Vaccinate at locations that allow aggressive surgical removal (distal limbs)
- Use non-adjuvanted products
- Avoid multidose vials and polyvalent vaccines

Classic Question(s)
A 7 year old cat presents with a 5-month history of an enlarging non-painful mass between her shoulders. The cat has been vaccinated annually with FVRCP, Rabies and FeLV.

The cat is not showing any overt signs of illness. Physical exam is otherwise unremarkable. CBC, chemistry and UA are all WNL. Injection site sarcoma is suspected.

What is the most appropriate test to perform to support the presumed diagnosis?

What is the treatment of choice for injection site sarcoma?

What are 4 things you can do to prevent/decrease the chances of injection site sarcoma?

What are two risk factors for development of injection site sarcoma?