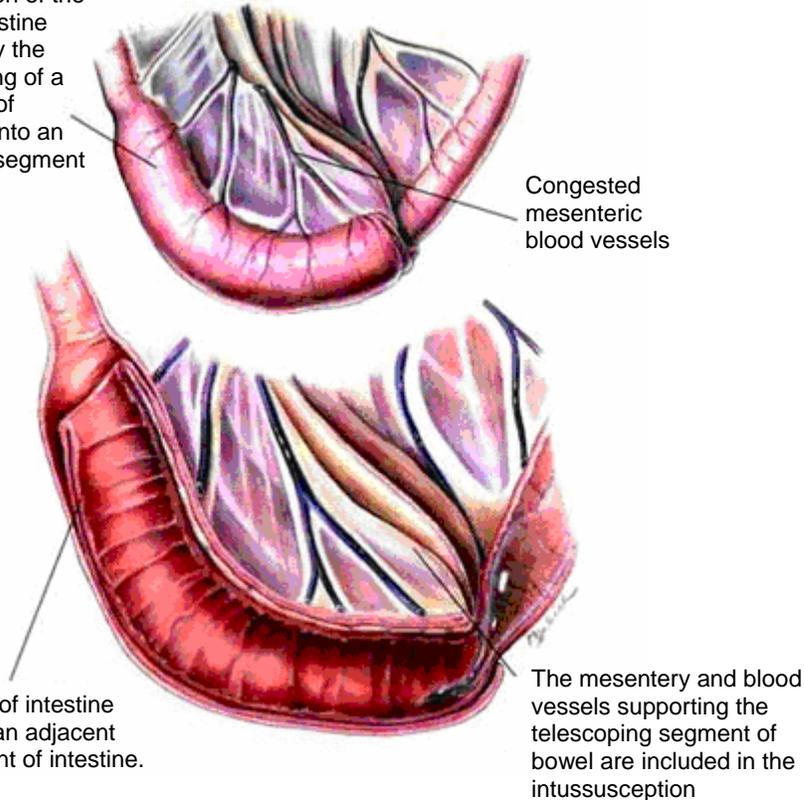


Obstruction of the small intestine caused by the telescoping of a segment of intestine into an adjacent segment



Intussusception

Diagnostic Plan

History
Physical examination
Abdominal palpation
Abdominal X-rays
Abdominal ultrasound
Blood work
Urinalysis
Stool check

Therapeutic Plan

Fluid therapy
Surgery
Removal of the cause
Nothing by mouth for a short while

Nutritional Plan

Postsurgically, low-residue nutrition fed in small portions
Consider overall patient condition when determining the protein level and caloric density of the food.

Intussusception

Your pet has an intussusception. Intussusception is the movement of one segment of intestine into an adjoining segment (like a telescope). This causes partial or complete intestinal obstruction. Clinical signs include vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain. To treat intussusception, veterinarians surgically explore the abdomen to reposition or remove the affected segment of intestine. This client education sheet will help you learn more about intussusception and will review your veterinarian's instructions for your pet's care at home, as well as follow-up with the veterinary health care team.

What You Should Know About Intussusception

Intestinal obstructions caused by intussusceptions lead to loss of fluids and electrolytes into the intestine. Severe damage to blood vessels of the intestine can result in death of the intestinal wall and leakage of bacteria and intestinal contents into the abdomen and blood stream. This development may lead to shock and death. Intussusceptions are most common in puppies and kittens, but may occur in older pets.

Causes

Any condition that produces gastrointestinal irritation can cause an intussusception. Intestinal infections, parasites, tumors and eating foreign material or garbage are a few of the potential causes.

Diagnosis

Many times your veterinarian will palpate (examine by touching) a cylindrical mass in the abdomen as he or she performs a physical exam. This finding along with the clinical signs suggests the presence of an intussusception. X-rays, may be done sometimes using special dyes (barium) to diagnose the intussusception. Ultrasound and a colonoscopy (an examination of the colon using a small lighted tube inserted through the anus) may also be helpful. Your veterinarian may

perform blood tests and urinalyses to determine your pet's hydration status and to check for electrolyte imbalances and other abnormalities. In addition, the stool may be checked for parasites.

Treatment and Home Care

Intravenous or subcutaneous fluids may be given to correct dehydration and electrolyte imbalances. Antibiotics are usually given as well. Once your pet's condition is stable, your veterinarian will anesthetize your pet and perform surgery to correct and look for the cause of the intussusception. Depending on the severity and duration of the intussusception, your veterinarian may need to remove part of the intestine. If the intestine is healthy and there has been no damage to the blood supply it may not be necessary to remove any tissue. Your veterinarian will reposition the intestinal tract to relieve the intussusception. If abnormalities are found during the surgery, such as a foreign body causing a blockage, these will be corrected also. After surgery, your veterinarian may prescribe additional medications. For example, dewormers will be prescribed if intestinal parasites are found.

Home care consists of giving all prescribed medications and checking your pet's incision daily for swelling and discharges. You should report any abnormalities such as loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, depression or changes in the incision to your veterinarian at once. Skin sutures will need to be removed according to your veterinarian's instructions.

Nutritional Plan

If your pet has had surgery to correct an intussusception, your veterinarian may give you special feeding instructions. Patients that have had intestinal surgery may benefit from foods that are highly digestible during the recovery process such as Hill's® Prescription Diet® i/d® Canine and i/d® Feline Gastrointestinal Health.

After your pet's recovery is complete, depending on the cause of the intussusception and the age of your pet, your veterinarian may recommend your pet continue to eat Prescription Diet® i/d® or may suggest a change. Nutrition is especially important for growth and proper development of the immune system in younger pets. Optimal nutrition should also reduce the health risks associated with feeding excess levels of nutrients such as calcium and phosphorus, which could contribute to skeletal problems. Consuming excess calories could contribute to obesity. Foods formulated for optimal growth that avoid excess levels of nutrients include Hill's® Science Diet® brand pet foods.

Transitioning Food

Unless recommended otherwise by your veterinarian, gradually introduce any new food over a seven-day period. Mix the new food with your pet's former food, gradually increasing its proportion until only the new food is fed.

If your pet is one of the few that doesn't readily accept a new food, try warming the canned food to body temperature, hand feeding for the first few days, or mixing the dry food with warm water (wait ten minutes before serving). Feed only the recommended food. Don't feed additional salt or any snacks that may contain sodium. Be patient but firm with your pet. This is important because the success or failure of treatment depends to a large degree on strict adherence to the new food.

Presented as an educational service by



Home Care Instructions

Client's Name: _____

Patient's Name: _____

Medication(s): _____

Nutritional Recommendation: _____

Follow-Up Appointment: _____

(Hospital Stamp Area Above)

REGULAR VISITS WILL HELP OUR VETERINARY HEALTH CARE TEAM PROVIDE FOR YOUR PET'S BEST INTEREST.