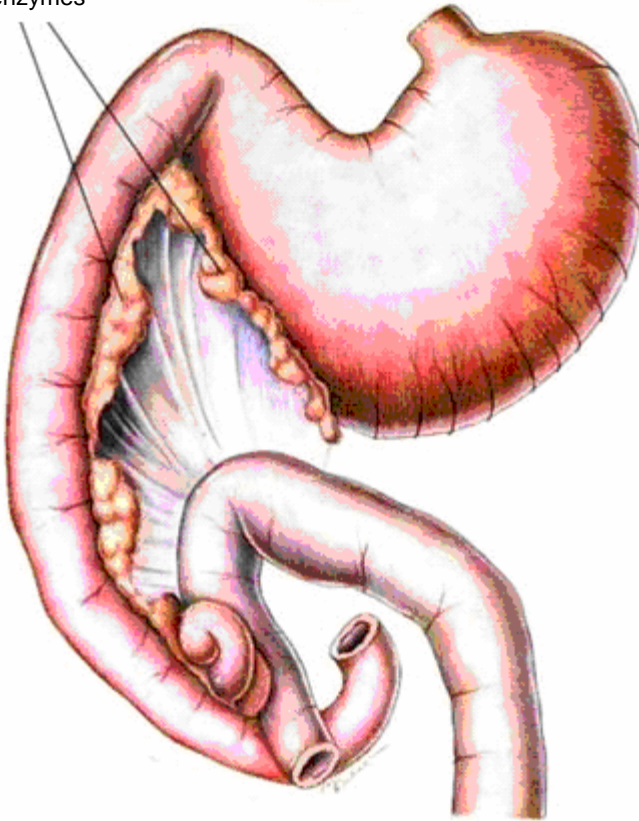




Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency

Shrunk pancreatic lobes
with reduced production of
digestive enzymes



Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency

Diagnostic Plan

History
Physical examination
Stool analysis
Blood work

Therapeutic Plan

Pancreatic enzymes
Antacids
Antibiotics

Nutritional Plan

A highly digestible, low- to
moderate-fat food
Feed quantities sufficient to
maintain normal body weight

Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency

Your pet has exocrine pancreatic insufficiency. Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency is an inadequate production of enzymes necessary for digestion of food. Common clinical signs include diarrhea and weight loss. It is treated by giving the pet digestive enzymes and feeding a highly digestible food. Some pets may need additional medications. This client education sheet will help you learn more about exocrine pancreatic insufficiency 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 Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency

The pancreas is a gland found near the stomach and small intestine. It produces enzymes that digest food and hormones such as insulin that regulate your pet's blood sugar level. The part of the pancreas which produces digestive enzymes is called the exocrine pancreas.

Inadequate secretion of enzymes to digest food is called exocrine pancreatic insufficiency. Without these enzymes, food isn't properly digested and passes through the intestinal tract into the stool without being absorbed by the body. The disease can occur in cats, but is most common in dogs, especially young German shepherds.

Causes

Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency in dogs less than one year old may be inherited. Repeated bouts of inflammation of the pancreas may also cause exocrine pancreatic insufficiency. Clinical signs usually do not appear until at least 85-90% of the exocrine pancreas is destroyed.

Diagnosis

The history of a young, underweight dog with a ravenous appetite and ongoing diarrhea suggests the presence of exocrine pancreatic insufficiency. In addition to doing a physical exam, your veterinarian may examine the stool for parasites. Blood tests are used to confirm the diagnosis.

Treatment and Home Care

Treatment consists of giving a medication that contains digestive enzymes. Depending on the pet, additional medications may be needed. In addition, your veterinarian may recommend a special food.

Home care consists of following your veterinarian's instructions for feeding your pet and for giving prescribed medications. With proper therapy, most pets with exocrine pancreatic insufficiency gain weight and have fewer clinical signs. It is important for you to realize that the pancreas won't regenerate, so your pet will require therapy for life.

Nutritional Plan

If your pet has exocrine pancreatic insufficiency, your veterinarian may give you special feeding instructions. Your veterinarian may recommend a highly digestible, low- to moderate-fat food such as Hill's® Prescription Diet® i/d® Canine and i/d® Feline Gastrointestinal Health. You should feed no other foods, snacks or supplements unless directed to do so by your veterinarian.

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. 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.