

**ELECTIVE GASTROPEXY:****Low morbidity procedure preventing high morbidity emergency****Synopsis**

The elective gastropexy is effective at dramatically reducing the occurrence of gastric volvulus and the emergent patient scenario that it creates. By surgically inducing a permanent adhesion between the right body wall and the gastric antrum, one reduces the chance of the antrum rolling craniodorsally into a 180-360 degree volvulus. In significantly predisposed breeds and/or body shapes, this procedure can be prophylactically life-saving. The morbidity associated with the procedure itself is quite low; when added on to another elective procedure requiring general anesthesia, the relative morbidity is further reduced.

Complications that may arise with this procedure are:

- Postoperative **gastric stasis** (uncommon, usually short-lived, noted by poor appetite or vomiting; treated with gastric motility enhancers)
- Postoperative **ileus** (rare, related to intraabdominal manipulations and anesthetic drugs; self-limiting)
- Gastric **perforation** w/ leak (very rare; serious/life-threatening, requiring emergent re-operation)

Poor postoperative outcomes may be due to the above complications, and/or:

- **Incomplete adhesion** (may allow gastric volvulus to occur)
- Excessively **elongated adhesion** (may allow gastric volvulus or may result in strangulation of other GI structures)
- Recurrent **gastric dilatation without volvulus** (may be self-limiting or emergent; typically non-surgical treatment, if necessary)

What a surgeon needs prior to surgery:

- Skin near the surgery site **CLEAR** of infection (papules, pustules, crusts, collarettes, etc.) If urgent surgery, owner must be alerted to *increased risk* of incisional, deep and/or implant infections.

**General considerations and complications for all surgery/anesthesia procedures are:**

- *Difficult and/or painful anesthetic recovery (variable; may require additional medications or re-hospitalization)*
- *Incisional infections (rare, minor; usually require oral antibiotics)*
- *Incisional dehiscence (rare, minor or major; may require surgical revision)*
- *Adverse anesthetic event (rare, major; may result in serious impairment or death)*

Proper owner expectations are important to a successful experience and patient outcome. Please discuss this information with your clients while assisting them with decision-making for an **Elective Gastropexy**.

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