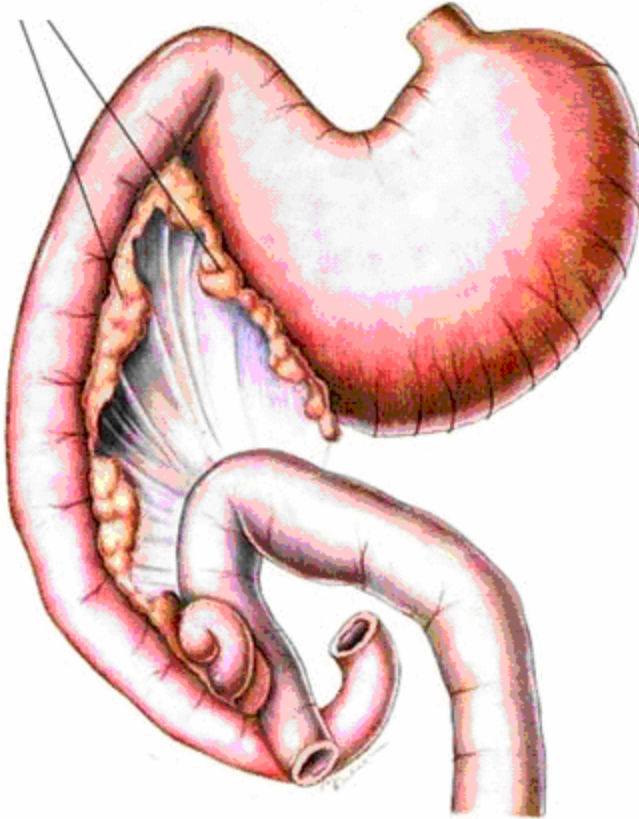


Shrunken pancreatic lobes with reduced production of digestive enzymes



Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency

Diagnostic Plan

History
Physical examination
Stool analysis
Absorption tests
Blood work
Intestinal biopsy

Therapeutic Plan

Pancreatic enzymes
Medium-chain fats
Antacids
Drugs that inhibit acid secretion in the stomach

Nutritional Plan

A highly digestible food
Consider overall body condition
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 the digestion of food. Common clinical signs include diarrhea and weight loss. It is treated with a highly digestible food and medications to improve digestion. 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 concerned with food digestion is called the exocrine pancreas.

Inadequate secretion of enzymes to digest food is called exocrine pancreatic insufficiency. As a result of this deficiency, digestion of food is impaired, and nutrients that would normally go into your pet's body pass out in the stool. This deficiency is seen most commonly in 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 90% of the exocrine pancreas is destroyed.

Diagnosis

The history of a young, underweight dog with a ravenous appetite and diarrhea suggests the presence of exocrine pancreatic insufficiency. Your veterinarian may examine the stool for parasites and undigested or partially digested proteins, fats, and carbohydrates. Blood tests may also be performed to confirm the diagnosis.

Treatment and Home Care

Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency is managed by feeding your pet a special highly digestible food. This food may be supplemented with pancreatic enzymes, drugs that inhibit acid secretion in the stomach, and antibiotics.

Home care consists of following your veterinarian's instructions for feeding your pet and for giving prescribed medications. With proper therapy, many pets with exocrine pancreatic insufficiency rapidly gain weight and have fewer clinical signs. It is important for you to realize that the pancreas will not 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. Special foods that contain highly digestible ingredients lessen the amount of pancreatic enzymes needed for digestion. This is especially important in pets with exocrine pancreatic insufficiency because 90% or more of the pancreas has been destroyed. As a result more of the food is digested and absorbed and less goes out in the stool. Low-fiber, low-fat foods that contain highly digestible proteins, fats, and carbohydrates include Hill's® Prescription Diet® Canine and Feline i/d®. If your veterinarian recommends a special food such as Hill's® Prescription Diet® Canine or Feline i/d®, 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). However, do not add water to your cat's food. 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.