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Pyometra in a Bitch

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The colt was given three-fourths ounce of chloral hydrate, cast, the area shaved and painted with iodine, infiltrated with procaine solution. A longitudinal incision through the skin—extending in direction from the left patella to the right olecranon—was made. The incision began at the most posterior opening and extended to the most anterior of the perforations. The skin was normal but much dense, vascular connective tissue was encountered just underlying it. The incision opened two more loops of intestine, apparently nearly ready to perforate. The intestinal wall was thick in most areas but the mucosa was easily recognized. The hernial ring was found to be about two inches in diameter, the edges thickened and the intestine firmly adherent to the margins of the ring. Attempts to close the intestinal opening and ring were practically useless as the suture material tore the tissue before apposition was obtained. The excess of tissue and intestinal loop were dissected away leaving a single opening at the umbilicus, the skin was sutured up to the opening and the owner was once again advised to dispose of the animal. The filly was sold to the local fox farm.

—Dr. Ray D. Hatch, Blacksburg, Va.

Pyometra in a Bitch. A female Great Dane, aged seven, was admitted to the Stange Memorial Clinic on March 24. The history received was that the dog had been depressed and off feed. The owner also reported observing a purulent discharge from the vulva. The dog had previously been given ergotrate as a uterine stimulant.

Examination revealed the pulse to be 120, respiration 24, and temperature 102.6° F. The general condition of the animal was poor. Other symptoms observed were a purulent discharge from the vulva, anorexia, and depression.

A diagnosis of pyometra was made and the dog was given one-half grain of morphia and placed in a kennel.

The next morning the condition of the dog was unchanged. In an attempt to evacuate some of the exudate present in the uterus, the dog was given 1/160 grain of ergotrate in solution subcutaneously. This caused the expulsion of a copious quantity of a sanginous, purulent material from the vulva. In order to provide nutrition, and at the same time for its detoxifying and flushing action, 1000 cc. of a 10 percent dextrose in physiologic saline solution was given intravenously.

Surgery

The following day the dog was extremely depressed and very weak. The same treatment as was given the day before was carried out except that only 850 cc. of the dextrose solution was administered. On the next morning, since the dog's condition was not improving, surgical intervention was deemed necessary. Because of the dog's poor condition, an unfavorable prognosis was given to the owner.

The bitch was given 2 grains of morphia. The abdominal area from the sternum to the vulva was shaved, and tincture of iodine was applied topically. Anesthesia was completed by the inhalation of ether. About twenty minutes before the operation, 1 cc. of adrenal cortex was given as a cardiac and circulatory stimulant.

Just posterior to the umbilicus, a three inch incision was made through the skin, abdominal muscles and peritoneum. The horns of the uterus were carefully worked through the incision. The horns were greatly enlarged and hyperemic. An angiobride forceps was placed on the mesovarium of each ovary, and after ligating with number four catgut, each was severed from its attachment. Because the blood supply to the uterus was very profuse, the large posterior uterine artery and vein on each side was ligated with catgut. Two hemostat forceps were used to clamp off the body of the uterus just anterior to the cervix. Sterile gauze was packed around the body of the uterus and the uterus was incised between the two hemostats. The stump of the uterine body was closed with a purse-string suture. The peritoneum was closed with a continuous

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suture of number four catgut. The muscle
and skin were closed with interrupted
silk sutures. Finally a continuous appo­
sition suture of catgut was placed through
the skin.

The dog was placed on a mattress close
to a radiator, and 850 cc. of dextrose solu­
tion was given intravenously by the drip
method. However, the dog died some few
hour later.

**Necropsy**

Upon autopsy, the right kidney was
found to be involved by chronic pyone­
phritis and pylonephritis, and a large
urolith filled the right renal pelvis. Numerous sand-like uroliths were also found in
the right pelvis, ureter, and in the blad­
er. The left kidney was found to be
hypertrophic and a focal purulent nephri­
tis was present. The condition of the tissues
showed a general anemia. The blood co­
agulated very poorly. Because of this, a
considerable hemoperitoneum was present
from the many minute vessels of the meso­
metrium. The uterine sutures were intact,
and the parietal peritoneal incision had
closed. There was no evidence of peri­
tonitis.

The post-mortem revealed the cause of
the extreme toxicity of the dog. Because
of the involvement of the kidneys, toxic
products normally excreted by the kid­
neys accumulated in the blood. Renal
involvement is often found to be a com­
plication of chronic pyometra in the bitch.
However, in this case further complica­
tions arose from the presence of the renal
calculi.

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**Diplomas for Seniors**

Seniors again this year received diplo­
mas from the A.V.M.A. Although the par­
et association had abandoned the practice,
due to the war, senior students had them
printed locally. The diplomas were then
sent to the A.V.M.A. for proper signatures.
Presentation was made before the student
chapter May 27, 1942.