

Informed Consent

Extracapsular ACL Repair

Your pet has been diagnosed presumptively with a tear in one of the major stabilizers of the knee joint, the cranial cruciate ligament (CrCL or ACL, ACL tear). You have elected an extracapsular repair/lateral fabellar suture to treat this disease. The prognosis is excellent with surgery. However, we need to make you aware of a few of the common complications that could arise after this surgery. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

The risks of complications after extracapsular repair is low, about 5-10% of cases. Here are some potential risks:

Infection- this is a risk with any surgery and usually treatable with oral antibiotic therapy and in some cases may require removal of the nylon suture. This should be safe to do after healing, however, we can replace the suture if needed in the future. That is rarely necessary.

Suture failure- the success of the surgery depends on the suture remaining intact. In some cases, it can slip, loosen, or break. Most often, replacement is recommended (additional replacements after one time are exceedingly rare)

Arthritis/osteoarthritis (OA)/degenerative joint disease (DJD)-despite our goal of stabilizing the stifle (knee), there was damage to the joint as soon as the ligament began to tear. Arthritis will progress, despite therapy, and although the surgery will allow your pet to compensate for this much better than without surgery, its possible the arthritis may progress enough over time to affect your pet. Medical therapies can be discussed at that time.

Entrapment/damage to the peroneal nerve- this may require replacement of the lateral fabellar suture

Meniscal tear- this is treated at surgery in most cases, but if it isn't or if it is treated ineffectively, additional therapy may be needed