

## **Informed Consent**

### **Femoral Head and Neck Osteotomy (FHO)**

Your pet has been diagnosed with a hip problem, including either a fracture, luxation, or arthritis (also known as osteoarthritis (OA), or degenerative joint disease (DJD). One of the treatments for this condition is a femoral head and neck osteotomy (FHO). The goal of surgery is to surgically excise the head of the femur bone (the ball part of the joint), removing the painful bone-on-bone contact present in the damaged joint. The gluteal muscles are able to support the area, so that joint motion and function can be maintained. The prognosis is excellent with surgery, however, we need to make you aware of a few of the common complications that could arise after FHO surgery. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

The risks of complications after FHO is very low, about 3-6% of cases. Here are the potential risks:

Poor limb use/continuing lameness/prolonged recovery- this may be more common in pets with chronic disease before surgery, and in smaller dogs that find it easier to carry the limb than bigger dogs. In most cases, additional, more varied, or more persistent physical therapy is recommended to build the muscles that now support the area. Some larger pets experience a functional lameness. The top predictive factor determining limb function post operatively is the quality and quantity of physical therapy performed during the recovery period. If the patient does not “use it, it will lose it”.

Regrowth of the bone at the femoral neck- this is more common in young pets that are still growing. They have a large capacity for creating bone/healing bone. If there is new or persistent lameness and X-rays show that some bone has re-grown, revision surgery may be recommended

Fracture of the proximal femur- this may be noted on post op X-ray or after surgery is over and may require revision surgery

Inadequate bone removal- if too much of the femoral neck is left behind, that may cause irritation and revision surgery would be needed

Poor soft tissue coverage at the acetabulum: this is a possible cause for persistent lameness after surgery, as the bones continue to rub against each other. In some cases, revision may be recommended to try to foster more interior muscle support in the hip area.

Infection- this is a risk with any surgery and is usually treatable with oral antibiotic therapy

Damage to the sciatic nerve- very rare

Patella luxation- without the ball part of the femur bone, the femur has more freedom to rotate and if the pet holds their leg more externally rotated, there could be an increased risk of the pet developing patella (kneecap) luxation after surgery. If patella luxation is associated with lameness, additional surgery may be recommended.