

Informed Consent

Gastrotomy (Incision Into the Stomach) Or Gastrectomy (Removal of Part of the Stomach)

You have elected to have your pet undergo a surgical procedure called a gastrotomy, where an incision is made into the stomach (for example, to remove foreign material, obtain a biopsy sample, or accomplish some procedure with the stomach like pyloroplasty) and if a portion of the stomach is removed (usually for a mass or tumor, or if part of the stomach is diseased or devitalized) that is called a partial gastrectomy. Luckily, the stomach heals very well and is generally a very forgiving tissue. The prognosis with surgery is generally very good to excellent, however, complications occur in about 10% of patients. Below, general risks of abdominal surgery are outlined, followed by those specific to gastrotomy/gastrectomy procedures. Let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Abdominal Surgery Risks

Skin incision infection- this is a risk with any surgery, and usually treatable with oral antibiotic therapy

Damage to abdominal structures- this could cause bleeding, or contamination by contents of the intestines

Adhesion formation (scar tissue formation in the abdomen)- scar tissue can impact the tissues in the abdomen in the future

Peritonitis- this is a rare but serious infection within the abdomen. If this occurs, additional therapies may likely be recommended.

Abdominal wall dehiscence (opening)- this can occur when the incision line used to close the abdominal wall fails. At first, the abdominal contents may stay covered by skin and subcutaneous tissue and revision is recommended. If they are not covered, emergency intervention is required.

Abdominal foreign body- very rarely, sponges or even instruments can be left in the abdominal cavity during surgery. We take precautions to ensure this doesn't happen, but it is possible.

Gastrotomy/Gastrectomy

Leakage from the stomach incision site (dehiscence)- if the incision in the stomach opens or leaks, the stomach contents end up in the abdomen and that causes irritation and infection. Revision surgery is recommended.

Recurrence of any tumor- if the underlying cause was some type of tumor, we remove as much as possible and/or as much tumor as we can see and feel. However, we cannot see or feel the cancer cells and there could be cells that remain. Those cells could regrow the tumor.

Failure of any pyloroplasty procedure- if we perform a procedure with the pylorus (where the stomach meets the intestine) to widen it (pyloroplasty), the symptoms may remain despite our efforts. Additional therapies may be needed.