

Informed Consent

Sacroiliac (SI) Luxation

Your pet has been diagnosed with a luxated, or mis-placed, sacroiliac joint. Specifically, this is a joint where the pelvis (ilium) joins the spine (sacrum). Surgery is not always required in these cases, but in certain cases, it is recommended, especially if there are other significant traumas, or if both sides are affected. You have selected surgical repair of the SI luxation for your pet. The goal of surgery is to replace the joint and stabilize the area using usually 1-2 screws or a screw and pin (implants). Prognosis is good to excellent with surgery. However, we need to make you aware of a few of the common complications that could arise after surgery. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

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

Failure to reduce: the goal of surgery is to replace the ilium, and we are successful in the vast majority of cases, but it may not always be perfect, especially in chronic cases. Even if not perfect, the fixation assures stability to allow healing and return of limb function.

Failure of reduction and re-luxation: the goal of surgery is to replace the joint and secure it in place. If surgery is not successful, the joint may luxate again and revision surgery may be indicated

Implant loosening, migration, or breakage: complications with the materials used to maintain reduction may occur and this could require revision surgery or surgery to remove the materials that were placed. If sufficient scar tissue has formed to hold the joint in place, materials may not always need to be replaced if they require removal.

Improper implant position- implant placement in this region can be challenging. There is the risk of implant placement in the spinal canal or around the local nerves and blood vessels. Occasionally the implants will need to be removed or replaced if they are in or near vital local neurovascular structures and causing clinical problems. This revision is usually performed immediately, if necessary.

Infection- this is a risk with any surgery and is usually treatable with oral antibiotic therapy and in some cases may require removal of the implants