

Informed Consent

Castration for Cryptorchidism (Neuter)

You have elected for your pet to undergo a castration (neuter) for a cryptorchid (retained, or undescended) testicle. The surgical goal is to locate and remove the remaining testicle. The surgery is straightforward, though the testicle may be difficult to find. The incision for surgery could include an incision in the skin near the scrotum or penis (in the inguinal area) or into the abdomen, or both. This procedure is fairly routine and prognosis is excellent. However, there are risks (less than 5-10 % of cases) to make you aware of. There are risks with general abdominal surgery and the castration, and both are discussed below.

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 will 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. However, once the abdominal incision fails, surgical revision is recommended. If the abdominal contents become exposed, 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.

Castration

Damage to nearby structures specifically in the regions surgery may occur. This includes the bladder, prostate gland, urethra, ureter, kidneys, among others. Damage to these structures are rare but could occur.

Seroma- if excess dissection is required, tissue planes become disrupted and fluid accumulates in these spaces after surgery, causing a seroma. Usually, no therapy is needed, but it could be possible in severe cases.

Hemorrhage (bleeding)- this can occur during surgery or in the post op period. Hemorrhage can be severe but is generally short-lived not usually life threatening.

Wound dehiscence (opening)- if the wound opens in the inguinal region, additional therapies may be needed

Urinary incontinence- this is rare and reported after castration. Additional therapies may be needed.

Behavior changes- this is common and somewhat desirable in many dogs. There may be a reduction in territorial behavior including marking, there may be less aggression, there may be reduced tendency to roam/run away, etc.

Eunuchoid syndrome- this is the lack of development of secondary sex characteristics like a large head, broad shoulders, and changes in fat distribution, etc.