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OUTCOME AFTER INCISIONAL GASTROPEXY FOR ACUTE GDV AT A SINGLE INSTITUTION (2002-2015)

Gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV) syndrome is an acute, life-threatening condition which mostly occurs in large and giant-breed dogs⁽¹⁻³⁾. Surgical invention to derotate and perform a gastropexy is the gold standard treatment, and many techniques have been developed and evaluated. (1-3) We report the results of a cohort of dogs with an acute presentation of GDV, all treated with incisional gastropexy between 2002-2015 at a single institution.

All dogs included in this study presented with the classic clinical signs of gastric dilatation or gastric dilatation volvulus and were subject to a standardized protocol of preoperative stabilization, surgical intervention including gastropexy and all necessary surgical procedures at time of surgery, and post-operative monitoring until discharge. Full records were evaluated.

A total of 285 cases were included in this study. Male:female ratio was 1.4:1, median age at presentation was 6.95 years. Most common dog breeds included the Great Dane (n=40) and the German Shepard (n=32). Confirmed complete GDV recurrence rate is 3.16% while gastric dilatation occurred in an additional 2.45% of cases. Median follow up was 1542 days. Median time to recurrence of GDV is 205 days.

Our cohort shows a tendency towards males, and large breed, deep chested dogs (1-3). In cases in which a surgical exploration was performed at the time of recurrent GDV, no evidence of the previous gastropexy was identified. Gastropexy healing has likely been inadequate in these cases, leading to detachment of the gastric wall in an early post-operative setting rather than a rupture of the gastropexy site at time of the recurrent gastric dilatation volvulus. Though recurrence rates are low, we would advise to routinely check gastropexy healing.

Large cohort studies on gastropexy techniques in an acute setting with longterm follow up are rare. Our study aids in the choice of technique by offering insight in our longterm experience.

References

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