



Chronic Vomiting in Dogs

DRIP 4

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	CristalCarnOVM 7
CBC/CHEM	
UA +/- culture	
Fecal testing	
Zinc flotation, direct examination, PCR profile	
Infectious disease screening	
Dirofilariasis, histoplasmosis	
Hormonal testing	
ACTH stimulation test	
Liver function testing	
Pre- & post-prandial serum bile acids, plasma NH ₃	
GI profile	
Cobalamin, folate, TLI, PLI	
Histopathology	

Diagnostic investigation from a general standpoint should always include a CBC camp, should always include a urinalysis. That's a fair minimum database. If that urinalysis identifies an active sediment, that maybe we consider a culture. Because urinary tract disease can be a cause of chronic vomiting.

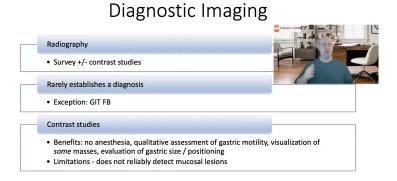
If a patient has concurrent diarrhea as many of them do, evaluating feces is very appropriate. Usually just starting with a zinc flotation and maybe a direct smear. We don't often jump right to the PCR profile. We'll talk about those cases more next month when we talk about chronic diarrhea in dogs. Pay attention to travel history and ones current geographic location. Because one may need to consider the potential involvement of an infective organism.

Sick dog, always think about Addison's disease. So maybe we're going to do a ACTH stimulation test or we're going to do at least a basal cortisol level to see if it is at least greater than two micrograms per deciliter. Or for those of you not in the United States, greater than 55 nanomoles per liter.

Liver function testing like measuring plasma ammonium if you have the capability to do in your hospital, or performing pre and postprandial serum bile acids.

Outside of the United States, this is called a bile acid stimulation test. So that type of testing is maybe quite logical.

Everybody's favorite, GI profile that includes a cobalamin or vitamin B12, folate, vitamin B9, as well as TLI and PLI to evaluate for pancreatic dysfunction and inflammation respectively. And of course, we all know that ultimately, we may need to recommend obtaining biopsy samples.



Everybody always wants to talk about diagnostic imaging, radiography, super easy, very much readily available, but not the most sensitive or specific imaging modality for patients with chronic and vomiting. So it can be helpful to look for evidence of overt mechanical illness. But usually, if we're talking about a foreign body, it's a chronic one that is partial in nature. And so we don't see classic patterns.

And unless it's a radio opaque object, radiographs may be challenging. And so we do a lot of radiology radiography, but be prepared to need to do other forms of diagnostic imaging.

Poll Question #2



So I'd like you to select your response to the following statement, a comprehensive abdominal ultrasound examination is a key diagnostic test for patients with chronic vomiting. I've consistently found the results to be helpful. So do you strongly agree, agree? Are you neutral? Do you disagree? Or do you strongly disagree? Obviously, there's no right answer. I'm truly interested in your perception as you've worked with your patients.