

A NEW PARADIGM FOR A PERENNIAL PROBLEM – PANCREATITIS (PARTS 1 AND 2)

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Pancreatitis is a commonly encountered problem in practice, yet one that is relatively rarely discussed in conferences and symposia. This is perhaps largely due to the fact that with the possible exception of medical diets there have been few recent innovations in managing or treating it. Fortunately, there has been a recent upsurge in the science and our collective understanding of this somewhat nebulous and misunderstood disease and how to manage it.

For starters, pancreatitis is probably much more common and complex than realized. Perhaps surprisingly, it can actually range from subclinical and essentially inapparent; to self-limiting, smoldering and chronic; to fulminant, necrotizing, SIRS-activated, and even fatal. A prevailing explanation for the disease, an auto-digestive process, is at the least incomplete. Indeed, inflammation and its sequelae may be implicated as a more significant issue. Frustratingly, while testing technology has markedly advanced, there is still no gold standard diagnostic pancreatitis test for our animal patients. On the plus side, however, new science and developments - including a new conditionally approved medication for acute pancreatitis in dogs - allow for more targeted and strategic management of the disease. With these exciting and encouraging developments providing new momentum in better dealing with this problematic, perennial pathology, hopefully veterinarians will soon have improved outcomes with their many pancreatitis patients.

Space precludes full listing here of the entire content of the 2 sessions to be delivered during Chicago Vet, but the engaging discussion will include coverage of multiple recent, peer-reviewed studies gleaned from the Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine (JVIM), Journal of Small Animal Practice, Veterinary Radiology, and Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA), among others, as well as multiple human biomedical publications. For those wanting to explore this subject of pancreatitis further, the January 2015 Journal of Small Animal Practice was largely dedicated to the topic and is a terrific place to start. The entire issue is available for free online:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/17485827/2015/56/1>