

FRAGMENTED MEDIAL CORONOID PROCESS FACT SHEET



NAME

WEIGHT

DATE

NEXT VISIT

DESCRIPTION

The medial coronoid process is a small piece of bone that forms part of the lower rim of the elbow joint socket. The medial coronoid process can become separated from the bone, causing pain and inflammation. This is known as a fragmented medial coronoid process. This process usually affects large-breed dogs. Lameness can occur between 5 and 7 months of age, although it may not be detected until the dog develops osteoarthritis.



NORMAL ELBOW

- A healthy elbow joint has a smooth, thin cartilage.
- The medial coronoid process remains attached.
- A normal joint structure facilitates normal joint function without clinical signs of pain.



FRAGMENTED MEDIAL CORONOID PROCESS

- In cases of a fragmented medial coronoid process, the coronoid cracks or completely separates from the bone, allowing it to move around and damage the cartilage.
- Osteoarthritis will develop as a consequence of cartilage damage and subsequent changes in the joint, causing pain and inflammation.

FRAGMENTED MEDIAL CORONOID PROCESS

CLINICAL SIGNS

- Acute or chronic lameness in one or both front legs, which worsens with exercise.
- The dog presents with stiff joints in the morning and after rest.
- These clinical signs may appear after a trauma.



TREATMENT OPTIONS

Non-surgical management

- **Weight control** is vital as allowing the dog to become overweight will accelerate the onset and progression of osteoarthritis.
- **Anti-inflammatory drugs** are used to reduce pain and inflammation in the joint, thereby improving the dog's quality of life.
- **Dietary supplements** may be added for different purposes. Glucosamine with chondroitin sulphate supports the joint cartilage. Omega-3 fatty acids are used for their anti-inflammatory properties.

Conservative treatment can be applied but if the loose fragment is not surgically removed it may continue to damage the cartilage.

Surgical intervention

- **Removal of fragmented coronoid process:** This involves surgical removal of the bone fragment that is contributing to the pain and inflammation.

Your veterinarian will discuss with you whether your dog needs a surgical intervention.



TIPS FOR THE OWNER

- Daily physiotherapy, including gentle, short exercises – as directed by your veterinarian – is beneficial for your dog as it will improve the mobility of the affected limb.
- Keeping your dog's weight under control with an appropriate high-quality diet and calorie restriction is essential to maintaining their joint health and general well-being.
- You can help your dog by using a harness that provides them with support and assistance on walks.
- Environmental modifications, such as a comfortable bed to sleep on, a mat on slippery floors and a ramp or steps to get into the car, will make daily activities easier for your dog.
- Don't forget to use medical treatment to reduce pain and inflammation, and to improve your dog's quality of life.

Please consult with your veterinarian for confirmation of any diagnosis or treatment.

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