Pregnant Spay – Cat or Dog

- Points to remember
  - Greater risk of hemorrhage
  - Patient will lose a greater fluid volume
  - Pre- & intra-operative surgical times will be longer
Pregnant Dog Spay

- Extended incision
- Strangle Knot
- Transfixation?
- Exteriorizing uterus
  - Fluid shift to facilitate exposure
  - Quickly displace from abdomen

Transfixation

Via Needle

Via “Stick Tie”
Pregnant Cat Spay

Positioning

Precautions

- Guard against hypothermia
- IV fluids?
- Ensure hemostasis
Ovarian Pedicle Tie

- Achievable even in pregnant cat
Flank Spay

Ideal Patients for Flank Spays

Lactating  Mammary hyperplasia
Flank Spay

Advantages

• Avoid mammary gland
• Reduced risk of dehiscence
• Observation of incision from a distance

Disadvantages

• Scar isn’t readily visible
• Increased wound pain

Flank Spay: Other Disadvantages

• Difficult to explore the abdomen
  o Confirm previous spay
  o Control hemorrhage
  o Find dropped stump or pedicle
  o Pyometra
  o Unexpected findings
Flank Spay: Positioning & Preparation

- Right lateral recumbency
- Legs extended
- Prep 10-cm square with greater trochanter marking right upper corner

Flank Spay: Landmarks for Incision

- Midway between dorsum & ventrum
  - Increased risk of hooking ureter if too dorsal
- 2-3 finger widths cranial to hip joint
  - Can miss abdomen if too caudal
- 1-2 cm skin incision – horizontal or vertical
Flank Spay: Body Wall

- Tent body wall to avoid injuring the spleen
- Blunt dissect through muscle layers
- Tag body wall in fat cats

Flank Spay: Retrieving the Ovary

- Ovary is found immediately under the incision
- Do not clamp uterus before identifying the ovary
  - Ureter looks like a uterine horn
Flank Spay: Routine Ovariohysterectomy

Flank Spay: Closing the Wound

• Appose body wall edges
  o Apposition not as critical as for midline
• Subcuticular closure to avoid skin sutures
Ventral Midline Approach (w/ Blunt Dissection)
Cryptorchidism in Dogs
Subcutaneous

Abdominal
Neuter Hook
Caution

Cryptorchidism in Cats

• Normally in scrotum by 6-8 weeks
Often in the SQ of Inguinal Region

Bilateral Cryptorchid
Is There a Testicle Present?

Abdominal

Spay hook
Bladder

- The testicle can usually be located next to the bladder
- If not, the bladder can be retroflexed & the ductus deferens can be traced from its prostatic termination to the testicle

Uterus Unicorni
Uterus Unicorni

Normal Uterus  Unicornuate Uterus  Segmental Agenesis  Hypoplastic Horn
Uterine anomalies were twice as common in cats (9 in 10,000) compared with dogs (5 in 10,000)

Ipsilateral renal agenesis is commonly associated with uterine anomalies

Both ovaries are almost always present

Most affected cats & dogs have no clinical signs & may have normal pregnancies

Clinical Significance

When an uterine horn anomaly is encountered . . .

- Look for an ovary on the same side
- Check for both kidneys
- Search abdomen for possible ectopic fetuses
Hydrometra

Ectopic Ovarian Tissue?
Hermaphrodites

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