



CAN THIS HAPPEN AGAIN?

It is very unusual that a patient has a reoccurrence of volvulus (twisting) following a gastropexy procedure. Rarely will a patient have abnormal stomach motility that requires medications and/or further testing. Recommendations to minimize dilation include the following:

Exercise

- Daily exercise and play time reduces anxiety and improves overall pet health
- Rest your pet a few hours following a meal

Diet

- If your pet has intermittent vomiting or diarrhea, ask the veterinarian if additional testing or biopsy collection is indicated
- Feed the daily requirement of food in 3-4 smaller feedings
- You may add water to the dry food and allow it to soak and soften the kibble
- Offer only digestible chew toys

If your pet is an Irish Wolfhound, Great Dane, or other large, deep-chested breed dog, or is a relative of a dog that has suffered a GDV, discuss the benefits of prophylactic gastropexy with your primary care veterinarian.

Our board-certified surgeons are available by appointment for consultation to discuss minimally-invasive surgery for prophylactic gastropexy in your dog.

The Animal Emergency Center is open 24 hours a day to provide emergency and critical care treatment for your family pet. Our care-givers work closely with you and your primary care veterinarian to provide the most affordable care possible for your ill or injured dog, cat, bird, reptile or small mammal. Our team consists of emergency and critical care veterinary and technician specialists, as well as specialists in the fields of surgery, internal medicine, exotic animal medicine, dentistry, and oncology. Our staff doctors, receptionists and nurses have all received special training to aid you and your pet in your time of need.



Directions

From I-43, take Silver Spring Drive West Exit for 0.9 miles. AEC is on the north side of Silver Spring, just past Green Bay Road. Turn directly from Silver Spring into the AEC parking lot.

From I-45, take Silver Spring Drive East Exit for 6.0 miles. AEC is on the north side of Silver Spring, just past Teutonia Avenue. Turn left on Crestwood Boulevard at the light to enter the AEC parking lot from this direction.

**Animal Emergency Center
2100 W. Silver Spring Dr.
Glendale, WI 53209**

414-540-5710

GASTRIC DILATATION- VOLVULUS



Animal Emergency Center



At the heart of critical care

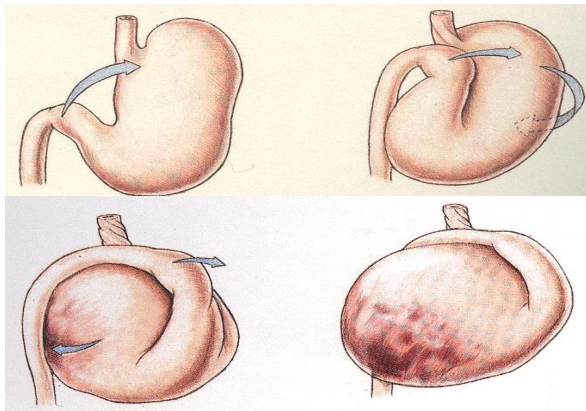


WHAT IS GDV?

Gastric dilatation and volvulus (GDV) is a life-threatening rotation and distension of the stomach (sometimes referred to as “Bloat” or “Torsion”). This syndrome occurs in any type of animal, but is most frequently seen in large, deep-chested breeds (e.g. Irish Wolfhound, Great Dane, German Shepherd Dog, Standard Poodle, etc).

Research has not successfully determined the cause of GDV, however, ongoing investigations are evaluating feeding habits, personality traits, and anatomical characteristics as features that may predict the occurrence of GDV in any dog. Relatives of dogs that have suffered GDV are also at greater risk.

Typically, the stomach will twist until it entraps gas within the stomach, and blood flow to the stomach wall is obstructed.



When GDV occurs, a number of changes take place that can become life-threatening. These include: stomach wall necrosis; twisting of the spleen; poor ventilation; aspiration pneumonia; enlarged

esophagus; clotting problems; heart arrhythmias; leaking capillaries and low protein; systemic infection. These changes can cause severe pain, shock, and in some cases, hemorrhage and rupture of the stomach. Collapse and death will ultimately occur without immediate medical intervention.



WHAT ARE SIGNS OF GDV?

The most common signs seen with this condition include abdominal distension, restlessness, labored breathing, abdominal pain, non-productive vomiting or retching of foamy fluid, and/or collapse.



HOW IS GDV TREATED?

The sooner the dog with GDV is treated, the better the chances for recovery. Immediate stabilization may incorporate the following:

- Oxygen administration for shock or labored breathing
- Rapid fluid resuscitation
- Pain medication
- Blood pressure measurement
- ECG to detect heart arrhythmias
- Blood tests to detect metabolic problems
- Antibiotic medication
- Decompression of the stomach
- Radiographs to confirm a GDV and other complications
- Treatment of other specified problems
- Preparation for surgery



IS SURGERY ALWAYS NECESSARY?

Surgical intervention is recommended over attempts at long-term medical therapy. Eighty percent or more of GDV cases treated without surgery will experience a recurrence.

During anesthesia, the patient is closely monitored with ECG, blood pressure, and pulse oximetry. The stomach is decompressed, de-rotated, and areas of necrosis are removed. The stomach is sutured into normal anatomical position (gastropexy) to reduce the risk of reoccurrence. In rare situations, the spleen is removed. If hemorrhage has been significant, blood transfusions may be necessary. Should severe necrosis of the stomach or other critical complications be seen, the pet’s guardian is notified. In rare situations extensive necrosis of the stomach may necessitate humane euthanasia.

The veterinarian may suggest options for medical management if surgery is not possible for your pet, however, these may not be successful and carry greater risk for complications and recurrence.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

During the immediate post-operative period, the patient is provided fluid therapy, intravenous antibiotics, and pain medication. Monitoring in the intensive care unit typically includes evaluation of ECG, blood pressure and other vital clinical and laboratory parameters. The patient is also closely observed for reoccurrence of shock, heart arrhythmias, gastric distension, bleeding, pain, infection and organ dysfunction. It is common to have a nasogastric feeding tube placed to permit slow refeeding and gastric decompression.

The pet is discharged for home nursing care when:

- The incision appears to be healing well
- They tolerate oral or tube feedings
- They can receive pain medications at home
- Vital signs are stable