

Struvite and Calcium Oxalate  
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# URINARY STONE THERAPY AND PREVENTION

# Lith= stone



- ⦿ Organized concretions
- ⦿ Organic Matrix:
  - proteins, Gag's
  - DSB
- ⦿ Inorganic Mineral (crystals) lattice
- ⦿ Casts, epi cells, heterogenous, suture

# Why Stones Count

- ◎ Recurrence
  - About 50%
  - Months to years
- ◎ Infection
  - Can lead to inability to clear infection
  - Kidney failure
  - Sepsis
- ◎ Result in kidney loss
- ◎ Obstruction
- ◎ Chronic Renal Insufficiency
- ◎ Acute Renal Failure
- ◎ Strictures

# Identify the Stone

- ◎ Stones are not all equal
- ◎ Struvite
- ◎ Calcium Oxalate
- ◎ Cystine
- ◎ Urate
- ◎ Silica

# After Identification

- ⦿ Water
- ⦿ Diet- emphasis
- ⦿ Other
- ⦿ Monitoring
- ⦿ If you cannot remove the stones

# The Key: Water



- ◎ Goal= Decrease concentration
  - Many reasons why
- ◎ Dry food vs canned
- ◎ Water dishes
  - Fountains
- ◎ Ice cubes
- ◎ Bottled vs. other

# Medical dissolution

- Struvite, xanthine/urate, cystine
- Diet
  - Specific gravity
  - Low purines for Urates, also alkalinize
    - no fish or glands

# Dietary

- ⦿ Prescription formulas
  - Science Diet Hills
  - Purina
  - Waltham
  
- ⦿ Must fit the stone



Diets, preventions

# STRUVITE STONES

# Struvite stones

- Culture
  - Complicated UTI schedule
  - Struvite will release new Bacteria
  - Treat for 1 month after radiographic resolution
- ◎ Treat long term
  - 4 total cultures
  - Antibiotics
    - 5-6 weeks
    - Or 2 weeks past x-ray changes

# Struvite Diets

- ◎ Hill's Science Diet c/d, w/d, s/d
- ◎ Royal Canin
  - Urinary SO, SO13, Control Formula

# Basics of Struvite diets

- ◎ Low magnesium
- ◎ Low phosphorous
  - Low protein
- ◎ Low sodium
  - Dilute urine
- ◎ pH goal
  - 6.2-6.4



# Hill's Science Diet c/d

- ⦿ Monitor urine pH
  - Should be neutral
- ⦿ Hyperlipidemia
- ⦿ Pancreatitis
  - Current and history
- ⦿ Non-struvite crystaluria
- ⦿ Pregnant or nursing dog
- ⦿ Puppies
  
- ⦿ Obesity concerns
  - w/d similar, better long term

**Goal**

**Concerns &  
contraindications**

# Hill's Science Diet w/d

- ⦿ High fiber better for those with elevated lipids
- ⦿ Has low magnesium and phosphorous
- ⦿ Already urine acidifying
- ⦿ Monitor urine pH and urinalysis
  - CaOx?
  - Alkaline= new infection
- ⦿ Same life stages
- ⦿ Concurrent use of urinary acidifiers
- ⦿ Low weight
  - Debilitated
- ⦿ Dehydration

**Goal**

**Contraindications**

# Hill's Science Diet s/d

- ⦿ Acute therapy for dissolution of struvite
- ⦿ Not meant for long term
  - CaOx
- ⦿ Lowest protein
  - Acidifying

# Hill's Science Diet s/d

- ◎ Monthly Monitoring
  - PE
  - CBC
  - Serum chemistry
  - cPLI and triglycerides
  - Urinalysis
- ◎ Same life stages
- ◎ First 1-2 weeks after surgery
- ◎ Urinary acidifiers on board
- ◎ Use no longer than 6 mo
- ◎ Stones that are not struvite



# Hill's Science Diet s/d

- ◎ Many more “No’s”
  - Heart
  - Kidney
  - Hypertension
  - Liver
  - Hyperlipidemia
  - Pancreatitis
  - Obese
  - Older than 7 yrs
  - Other disease
  - Steroid administration



Diets, preventions

# CALCIUM OXALATE STONES

# Oxalate stones

- Low calcium
- Low protein
- pH target: 7.1- 7.7
- Hill's Science Diet u/d
- Royal Canin
  - Urinary SO, SO 13



# Hill's Science Diet u/d

- ◎ Stone types
  - CaOx, urate, cystine
- ◎ Changes of note
  - Urine dilute
  - Decreased BUN
- ◎ Monitor 6 months
  - Serum chemistry
  - echocardiogram
- ◎ Struvite stones
- ◎ Low albumin
  - Protein depletion possible if used long term
- ◎ Added carnitine and taurine due to low protein

# Royal Canin Urinary SO

- ⦿ Moderate acidic urine
  - pH 5.5-6.0 ☹️
- ⦿ High volume urine
  - High moisture
  - Higher NaCl
  - Protein restricted
- ⦿ Low
  - Magnesium
  - Calcium
  - oxalate
- ⦿ Struvite
  - Dissolution or prevention
- ⦿ Controversial diet for CaOx

# Contraindications for Both

- ⦿ Growing puppies
- ⦿ Pregnant and nursing
- ⦿ Hyperlipidemia
  - High triglycerides
- ⦿ Pancreatitis
  - History or risk

Human Food to Avoid

Calcium

◎ Meats:

- salmon, bologna, sardines

◎ Vegetables:

- baked beans, broccoli, collards, lima beans, spinach, tofu

◎ Dairy

## What to Avoid

### Oxalate

- ◎ Meats: sardines
- ◎ Vegetables:
  - Asparagus, broccoli, celery, corn, cucumber, egg plant, green beans, green peppers, lettuce, spinach, summer squash, sweet potatoes, tomatoes
- ◎ Fruits
  - Apples, apricots, cherries, citrus peel, orange, peach, pear, pineapple, tangerine
- ◎ Various
  - Peanuts, cornbread, soybean, pecan, wheat germ, beer



Supportive care for all

# OTHER SPECIFIC THERAPIES

# Urine retention

- ⦿ Access to Outside
- ⦿ Back problems?

# Why Glucosamine?

- ⦿ Underlying defense for bladder surface
- ⦿ Can help normal urine proteins work optimally
  - Proteins
  - Increased glucosamine = increase ability to trap bacteria

# Antibiotics?

- When appropriate?
- When “blind” antibiotics not good

# Antioxidants

- ⦿ Renal protectant
- ⦿ Omega 3's
  - Fish oil

# The Acidifiers

- ◎ Acidifying diets
- ◎ Chronic metabolic acidosis
- ◎ Cranberry
- ◎ Vitamin C/Ascorbic acid

# Changing urine to basic

- ⊙ Potassium Citrate
  - Binds Ca
  - Changes pH
    - Less Ca in urine
- ⊙ Science Diet ud
  - Supplemented already

# Underlying Causes

- ⦿ High calcium- idiopathic vs other
- ⦿ Liver disease
- ⦿ Causes of increase UTI risk
  - Diabetes mellitus
  - Hyperadrenocorticism/Cushing's
  - Kidney disease
  - Structural abnormalities
- ⦿ Immune-suppression
- ⦿ Low phosphorous
- ⦿ Vitamin Deficiency?



# Treatments Predisposing

- ⦿ Furosemide
- ⦿ Prednisone/prednisolone
  - Steroids
- ⦿ Vitamin D
  
- ⦿ Urine acidifiers

Increase calcium in urine

# Vitamin B6

- ◎ Dogs with CaOx deficient
  - Miniature Schnauzers
  - Bichon Frise dogs
  - All others so far tested
    - current stones
    - Brussels Griffon
    - Welsh Corgi
    - Mixed breed
    - Maltese
    - Toy Poodle

# Vitamin B6

- ◎ Other vitamin B's
  - A small number tested: B 12
- ◎ Supplement?
  - Not without documented deficiency
  - Not without ability to monitor
    - Too early to tell if effective

Life After Urinary Stones

# MONITORING RECOMMENDATIONS

# Assuming Removal has Occurred

- ⊙ Recheck
- ⊙ Urinalysis
  - Sp gr
  - 3-4 months
- ⊙ Abdominal radiographs
  - 4-6 months
- ⊙ Exceptions:  
whenever clinical signs occur

Options for difficult situations

# WHAT TO DO IF THE STONE CANNOT BE REMOVED

# Removal Not Possible

- ◎ Recheck schedule  
4-6 months
  - Culture urine every 6 months
    - Treat appropriately
  - Renal panel
- ◎ Clinical signs= do sooner

# Take homes for all

## ⦿ Water intake

- Increased intake= increased output
  - Less chance for formation

## ⦿ pH of urine

- 7.0

## ⦿ Monitor for complications

- Infections
- Obstruction
- Polyps



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