

ANIMAL MATTERS: Tips & Treatments



Michigan Veterinary
Specialistssm

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SURGERY:

Abdominal Organ Biopsy Tips

Indications

Abdominal exploratory is a commonly performed procedure, but may not reveal a macroscopic diagnosis in a vomiting or diarrheic patient. Internal organ biopsies are imperative.

General Principles

A celiotomy incision should be large enough to allow complete examination of all abdominal viscera. Solid organs should be biopsied first, and then hollow organs (clean to dirty). Strongly consider routine culture of parenchymal organs. Avoid preoperative antibiotics if culturing tissue or fluid samples.

Liver and splenic biopsy

Liver biopsy specimens should be collected from the middle of a lobe. Collection samples of liver from the tip of a lobe may yield normal fibrotic changes which are not representative of the root problem. Liver biopsy is performed using a Kee's biopsy punch and gel foam. Multiple lobes should be biopsied as diffuse involvement of the liver may not be present. A similar technique can be used for splenic biopsy. By packing the biopsy site with gel foam and placing a few sutures in the capsule of the spleen, hemorrhage will be minimized.

Intestinal biopsy

Intestinal biopsies should be collected when vomiting, diarrhea or liver enzyme elevation are the primary reason for exploratory surgery. Inflammatory bowel disease may cause liver enzyme elevation. Samples should be collected from the duodenum, jejunum and ileum. A 4 mm Kee's punch is an excellent tool for this task. Inspect each biopsy specimen to ensure that the mucosa has been included in the sample. Each biopsy site is closed with 3 simple interrupted 4-0 or 5-0 PDS or Monocryl.

Pancreatic biopsy

In cats, many cases of chronic pancreatitis are diagnosed only with histopathology. Collect biopsy specimens of the terminal part of a pancreatic lobe using a guillotine technique. Although uncommon in our experience, pancreatitis may be a complication following pancreatic biopsy.

Lymph node biopsy

Samples can be collected from lymph nodes using a wedge biopsy technique with a number 15 scalpel blade. Care must be taken to avoid injury of mesenteric vessels.

Board Certified Surgical Experts:

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Michigan Veterinary Specialists has board-certified surgeons at the Auburn Hills and Southfield locations. They have four additional years of training and are certified by the American College of Veterinary Surgeons to assure competency in advanced veterinary surgery. Laparoscopic internal organ biopsy is available through our surgical service and will reduce perioperative pain and healing time.

Questions?

Our surgeons are available for questions and consultations on surgical conditions during the weekdays. They are also on-call to perform surgery on cases admitted to our ER services. Contact them at (248) 371-3713 or (248) 354-6660 with questions about your cases.

LOCATIONS

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