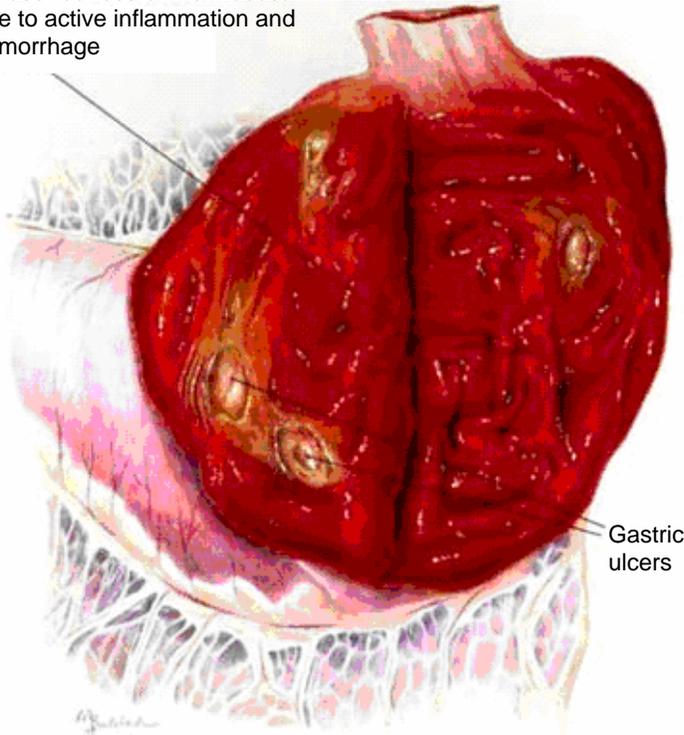


# Hemorrhagic Gastritis with Ulcers

Diffuse redness of the mucosa due to active inflammation and hemorrhage



## Hemorrhagic Gastritis with Ulcers

### Diagnostic Plan

History  
Physical examination  
Blood work  
Stool check for blood  
Stool check for parasites  
Urinalysis  
X-rays of the stomach  
Endoscopy  
Gastric fluid analysis  
Gastric biopsy

### Therapeutic Plan

Nothing orally for 12 to 24 hrs  
Fluid therapy  
Gastric lavage  
Drugs to control vomiting  
Antibiotics  
Antacids  
Drugs to protect the lining of the stomach. (mucosal protectants)  
Drugs to inhibit gastric acid secretion  
Surgery

### Nutritional Plan

Nutrition based on cause and individual pet  
Highly digestible low- to moderate-fat foods  
For pets with gastritis caused by food allergy, a hypoallergenic food may be recommended.

## Hemorrhagic Gastritis with Ulcers

Your pet has hemorrhagic gastritis with ulcers. Gastritis is an inflammation of the stomach. This condition is more common in dogs, but can occur in cats. Some dogs will develop ulcers in the stomach and gastrointestinal tract. These dogs will usually have vomiting and sometimes the vomit will contain blood. Treatment includes removing the cause, providing appropriate medications and feeding a highly digestible food. This client education sheet will help you learn more about this condition and will review your veterinarian's instructions for your pet's care at home, as well as follow-up with the veterinary health care team.

### What You Should Know About Hemorrhagic Gastritis with Ulcers

The stomach stores food, produces acidic digestive juices and moves food through the digestive tract in a timely fashion. Gastritis, which is very common, is an inflammation of the stomach. Hemorrhagic gastritis with ulcers is a more severe form of gastritis. In addition to being inflamed, the lining of the stomach may be ulcerated and bleed easily.

#### Causes

There are many potential causes of this condition and in many cases the exact cause can't be determined. Any substance or condition that causes irritation to the stomach or intestinal tract may contribute. Potential causes include: viruses; bacteria (spoiled food, eating garbage); caustic substances and toxins (certain plants, drugs, heavy metals, and chemicals); medications such as aspirin; and ingestion of foreign objects such as toys and other non-digestible materials. Stress and diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, kidneys and liver may also contribute to gastritis and the development of ulcers.

#### Signs

Some dogs may have no signs even if they have severe disease. Vomiting is the sign seen most often. Blood may be seen in the vomit, either as fresh, red blood or as dark, coffee-grounds appearing material. The stools may be darker than normal to nearly black in color. Licking, salivation or repeated attempts at swallowing could be signs of nausea. Pets may also have

abdominal pain (possibly seen as restless behavior, abnormal posturing, increased breathing rate or panting), anorexia and lethargy.

### Diagnosis

Your veterinarian may suspect hemorrhagic gastritis with ulcers if your pet has a history of vomiting in which the vomited material contains blood. The fluid loss associated with the vomiting and diarrhea may result in dehydration. Your veterinarian may need to perform several or all of the following tests to try to confirm the diagnosis and identify the cause: a physical examination; blood tests; a urinalysis; a stool check for blood and parasites; and X-rays of the stomach, often using a contrast agent. Your veterinarian may want to examine the stomach with a lighted instrument called an endoscope. Sometimes a surgical exploration of the stomach is necessary.

### Treatment and Home Care

Specific treatment depends on the cause, if it can be found. If your veterinarian determines that chronic kidney failure is the cause of gastritis, he or she will begin treatment for kidney failure. Foreign bodies will need to be removed, etc.

Severe gastric bleeding needs aggressive therapy. Your veterinarian may want to hospitalize your pet to rehydrate and restore lost electrolytes. In rare cases a blood transfusion may be needed. Food and water may be withheld for a few days to decrease acid production and allow the stomach time to heal. During this time, your veterinarian will administer fluids to help prevent dehydration and correct electrolyte imbalances. Your veterinarian may also prescribe antibiotics or medications to inhibit acid secretion in the stomach. Home care consists of following your veterinarian's instructions for proper feeding for your pet and giving all prescribed medications. Some pets may need to be on medications for the rest of their life. Your veterinarian may want to exam your pet on a frequent basis to monitor your pet's condition.

### Nutritional Plan

If your pet has hemorrhagic gastritis with ulcers, your veterinarian may give you special feeding instructions. Your veterinarian may recommend a highly digestible, low- to moderate-fat food such as Hill's® Prescription Diet® i/d® Canine and i/d® Feline Gastrointestinal Health. Prescription Diet® g/d® Canine and g/d® Feline Early Cardiac-Healthy Aging are also highly digestible and reduced in fat. If the suspected cause is a food allergy, your veterinarian may recommend a food composed of ingredients that your pet is unlikely to have eaten such as Hill's® Prescription Diet® d/d® Canine or d/d® Feline Skin Support. Alternately, your veterinarian may recommend a food made of hydrolyzed proteins which minimize allergic reactions to food. Such foods include Hill's® Prescription Diet® z/d® Canine and z/d® Feline Low Allergen.

### Transitioning Food

Unless recommended otherwise by your veterinarian, gradually introduce any new food over a seven-day period. Mix the new food with your pet's former food, gradually increasing its proportion until only the new food is fed.

If your pet is one of the few that doesn't readily accept a new food, try warming the canned food to body temperature, hand feeding for the first few days, or mixing the dry food with warm water (wait ten minutes before serving). Feed only the recommended food. Be patient but firm with your pet. This is important because the success or failure of treatment depends to a large degree on strict adherence to the new food.

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## Home Care Instructions

Client's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Medication(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Nutritional Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

Follow-Up Appointment: \_\_\_\_\_

(Hospital Stamp Area Above)

REGULAR VISITS WILL HELP OUR VETERINARY HEALTH CARE TEAM PROVIDE FOR YOUR PET'S BEST INTEREST.