Pros and cons of ovariophysterectomy in bitches

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INTRODUCTION

Ovariophysterectomy (OHE) is one of the most common surgeries in companion animal practice. Veterinarians can play an important role in addressing problems related to small animal neutering and overpopulation, and in counselling pet owners to take appropriate action. The balance between health risks and benefits of spay varies among dogs. Therefore, OHE might not be the most recommended approach in every situation. Factors that should be taken into account include the knowledge and commitment of the owner, the breed of the bitch, its age at the OHE and its intended use.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this study is to clarify all points which ought to be considered in order to make a good recommendation, individualized for each patient.

CONCLUSION

It is not possible to draw an universal conclusion consisting in a valid recommendation for every single bitch. From a rational point of view, the OHE should not be considered as a routinely recommended procedure.

PROS OF OHE

- Problems associated with immunity
  - E proinflammatory and P₄ immunosuppressive
- Hemangiosarcoma At a late OHE
- Mast cell cancer
- Lymphoma or lymphosarcoma At an early OHE
- Osteosarcoma age at OHE = risk
- Transitional cell carcinoma risk 2-4 times
- Obesity
- Orthopaedic problems
  - Hip dysplasia
  - Injury or rupture of LCA or LCC
  - Patellar luxation
  - Osteoporosis
  - Net loss of bone mass in the spine
- Behavioural disorders
  - Offensive reactivity
- Ovarian Remnant Syndrome (ORS)
- Stump pyometra
- Urethral sphincter mechanism incompetence (USMI) 20% vs 0.3%
- Perivulvar dermatitis and vaginitis
- Paediatric OHE
- Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs)

CONS OF OHE

- Mammary tumours
  - OHE < 2.5 years
  - Before 1st heat: 0.5%
  - Before 2nd heat: 8%
  - After 2nd heat: 26%
  - P₄ and E receptors. Synergy between ovarian hormones - GH - PRL which promotes the development of mammary tumours
- Epilepsy
  - proconvulsive effects of E
- Infections
  - Cancer

COMPLICATIONS FROM SPAY SURGERY

- Hemorrhage
- Wound healing complications
- Anesthesia / analgesia
- Ureteral injury
- Bowel obstruction

HYPOTHYROIDISM x3

GERIATRIC COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT

ADVERSE VACCINES REACTIONS

REFERENCES