

Pros and cons of ovariohysterectomy in bitches



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INTRODUCTION

Ovariohysterectomy (OHE) is one of the most common surgeries in companion animal practice¹. Veterinarians can play an important role in addressing problems related to small animal neutering and overpopulation, and in counselling pet owners to take appropriate action². The balance between health risks and benefits of spay varies among dogs³. 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 use⁴.

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

Pregnancies

Oestrus

Pseudopregnancy

Pyometra

24 % incidence in intact females

Tumours of the reproductive system

0,4 % of incidence

Acromegaly

P₄ stimulates GH

Diabetes mellitus

P₄ diabetogenic

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

Lifespan

Infections

Cancer

Eliminates

Reduces the risk

Complications from spay surgery

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

CONS 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)

Increases the risk

Hypothyroidism ↑ x3

Geriatric Cognitive Impairment

Adverse vaccines reactions

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