



internal medicine surgery emergency & critical care dermatology radiology, ultrasound & CT scan

Perineal Urethrostomy

PERINEAL URETHROSTOMY (PU) is a surgical procedure performed in male cats for the treatment of recurrent episodes of life threatening urinary tract obstruction or blockage.

ANATOMY The urinary system consists of the kidneys, the tubes (ureters) that pass urine from the kidneys to the bladder, the bladder which is a reservoir for urine, and the urethra, which is the tube that drains urine from the bladder to the outside. The urethra in males is fairly long and a portion of it runs through the tissue of the penis. In cats, the urethra is more narrow in the penis which makes this region susceptible to blockage with stones or mucous plugs.

FLUTD Urinary obstructions often occur in cats secondary to Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease. This disease describes a group of clinical signs involving the bladder and urethra of the cat. The cats suffer from cystitis (inflammation in the bladder) which results in the production of mucus, crystals, and stones in the bladder. Stones or mucus plugs can exit the bladder during urination and lodge in the urethra within the penis. In long standing obstructions, the cats are unable to urinate. This may result in damage to the kidneys, rupture of the bladder, or cardiac arrest due to severe electrolyte abnormalities. **Urinary obstruction is an emergency!**

Signs of urethral obstruction

- Straining to urinate with no production of urine
- Blood dripping from the penis
- Depression and loss of appetite
- Licking penis
- Dribbling urine



A contrast urethrogram (X-ray study with dye in the urinary system) is performed showing bladder and urethral stones causing urethral obstruction.

INDICATIONS FOR A PERINEAL URETHROSTOMY The primary indication for a PU is failure of medical management of FLUTD and recurrence of urethral obstruction. In general if urethral obstruction has occurred more than twice, a PU is indicated. In some situations a PU is a surgical emergency. If urethral obstruction occurs and catheterization to relieve the obstruction can not be performed, a urethrostomy is necessary.

SURGICAL PROCEDURE Perineal urethrostomy is performed by amputating the penis and opening the urethra in front of the obstruction. The urethra is sutured to the skin creating a “drain board” to prevent urinary scalding. A PU effectively shortens and widens the urethra making urinary obstruction less likely. A PU does nothing to eliminate the production of urinary stones or mucus plugs. It simply allows these obstructions to pass through the urethra.

PROGNOSIS & COMPLICATIONS Following PU surgery, most cats have an excellent prognosis. Though rare, complications include stricture of the urethrostomy, dehiscence of the drain board, and urinary incontinence. Recurrence of obstruction is uncommon if



perineal urethrostomy is performed properly; however, the cat should be monitored for urinary tract infections periodically for the remainder of his life.

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