

## Jejunal Ischemia Following Jejunotomy For A Foreign Body Obstruction

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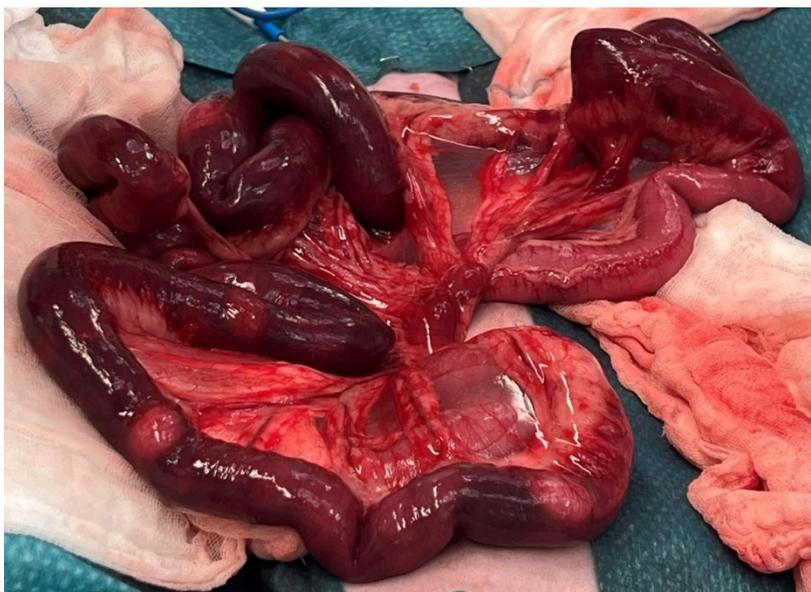
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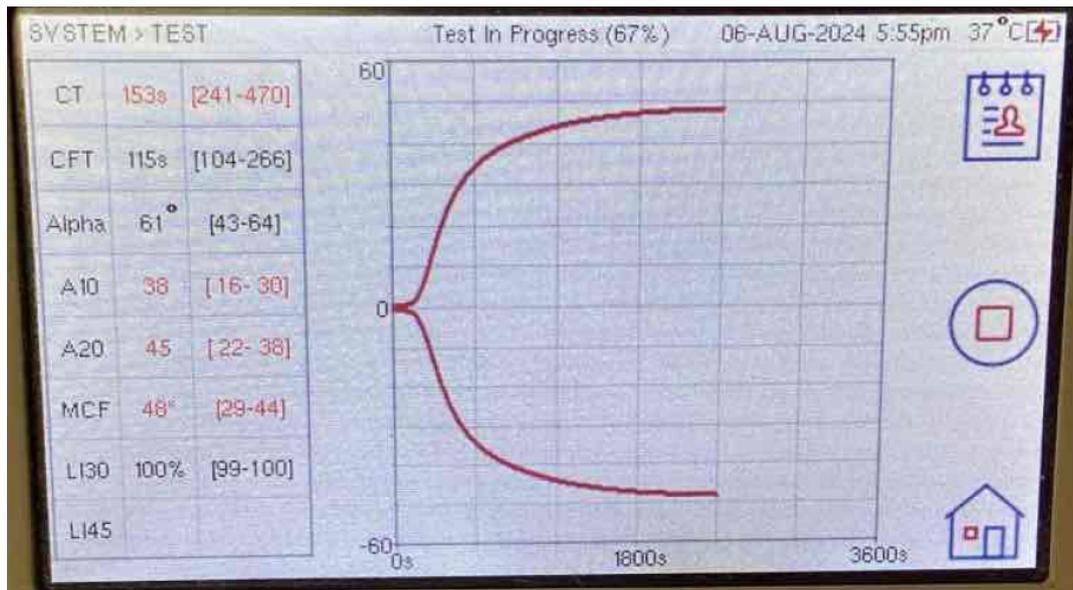
A 6-month-old female spayed Cavoodle presented to a referral practice in Brisbane, Australia, after multiple vomits for over two days and anorexia the morning of presentation.

On presentation, the dog was tachycardic, 6-8% dehydrated and had a tense abdomen on abdominal palpation. An abdominal ultrasound was performed by a radiologist, which revealed a foreign body obstruction within the distal jejunum. An exploratory laparotomy was recommended.

A routine jejunotomy was performed. Intraoperatively following the jejunotomy, ischemia of the jejunal segment occurred (**Figure 1**). A thromboelastogram showed that the dog was hypercoagulable (**Figure 2**). The formation of a thrombus in the vasculature supplying the jejunal segment was the most likely explanation for what was observed. The decision was made to close without any further intervention. Postoperatively, the dog received supportive care and was treated with Dalteparin 150 IU kg<sup>-1</sup> subcutaneously during hospitalization. The dog was discharged and returned in two weeks with no further concerns.



**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**

The local inflammatory response due to a foreign body obstruction can create a systemic inflammatory response, resulting in microvascular dysfunction distant from the obstructed intestinal site.<sup>1</sup> In this case, a thrombus was postulated to be the cause of the jejunal ischemia. The presence of ischemic intestines does not always necessitate resection and anastomosis. Further research to develop validated tests for assessing perfusion abnormalities in the gastrointestinal tract should be undertaken. To the author's knowledge, there has been no literature documenting the occurrence of an ischemic event following an enterotomy for foreign body removal.

**Word Count: 250 words (excluding title)**

## References

1. Mullen KM, Regier PJ, Ellison GW, Londoño L. The pathophysiology of small intestinal foreign body obstruction and intraoperative assessment of tissue viability in dogs: a review. *Top Companion Anim Med.* 2020;40:100438. doi:10.1016/j.tcam.2020.100438.