

## Fracture of the Lateral or Medial Femoral Trochlear Ridge

Your cat has suffered a fracture of the femoral trochlear ridge (of the knee joint). Femoral trochlear ridge fractures are extremely rare.

Fractures of the femoral trochlear ridge are extremely difficult to successfully repair due to the very small bone fragments and intrarticular (inside the joint) location. Options for fixation are limited to very small Kirschner-wires +/- implants placed adjacent to the trochlear ridge to provide a buttress. It may not be possible to adequately stabilise the trochlear ridge; in this case it will likely be removed.

The risk of failure of fixation and/or failure of the fracture to heal is unfortunately quite high. Other potential complications may include the following:

- Even though very uncommon, anaesthetic death can occur. With the use of modern anaesthetic protocols and careful monitoring the risk of problems with anaesthesia is minimised, but never eliminated.
- Infection is an uncommon complication as strict sterile technique is used during the surgery and antibiotics are administered during and after the procedure. Statistically approximately 1 in 50 animals undergoing orthopaedic surgery are likely to develop a post surgical infection. Contamination of the wound in the early post-operative period may increase this risk e.g. your cat licking the wound in the first few days after surgery may significantly increase the risk of infection. Should infection occur, early detection and treatment generally results in rapid resolution, although very occasionally removal of the implants may be required once the bone has healed. More serious problems may occur if infection progresses untreated or if your cat suffers infection with a multiple resistance bacteria e.g. MRSA. If you suspect an infection contact your VET immediately.
- Excessive early activity will reduce the likelihood of the bone healing and will increase the risk of implant failure or loosening.
- Even after the bone has healed it is still important to have a controlled, gradual increase in activity, similar to human patients undergoing rehabilitation following surgery. If activity in cats is increased too quickly after surgery straining of joint structures may occur. Rest and anti-inflammatory medications typically resolve these problems.
- As the fracture is inside the joint it is inevitable that arthritis will develop and progress. Anything other than perfect anatomic alignment will exacerbate this. Fortunately, most cats suffering arthritis will recover reasonably good joint function, although some degree of intermittent or permanent lameness may be present.

### AFTERCARE OF YOUR CAT FOLLOWING SURGERY:

Your cat should be kept confined, ideally to a cage large enough to comfortably accommodate bedding, litter tray and food bowls, or alternatively to a small unfurnished room with **non-slip** flooring. Confinement should be maintained at all times until your Vet specifically advises otherwise.

**Ice packs** for 10 to 15 minutes several times daily are recommended in the first few days following surgery to reduce swelling and improve comfort. Regular, gentle massage (sweeping motions upwards e.g. from ankle to hip) may help dissipate oedema fluid.

X-rays should be performed approximately four to eight weeks following surgery to assess implant position and healing. The actual timing of follow-up x-rays will be advised at discharge.

Hydrotherapy may be beneficial to recovery but should only be performed in a centre with qualified personnel experienced with cats. Only commence hydrotherapy if specifically advised to do so by your Vet.

Implant removal may be advised in certain situations e.g. very young animals, contaminated wounds.

**DECLARATION:**

I have read the information contained herein (2 pages) and am satisfied I have a sufficient understanding of the procedures my cat is scheduled to undergo, including potential complications that may occur and requirements for aftercare following surgery.

I hereby consent for my cat ..... to undergo fracture repair as scheduled by my Vet.

Owner's signature:

Witness:

Print name:

Print name:

Date:

Date: