

# FRAGMENTED CORONOID PROCESS FACT SHEET









## DESCRIPTION

Fragmentation of the coronoid process occurs when a small part of the coronoid process separates from the ulna or when partial cracks form in this area, causing pain and inflammation. This process usually affects large-breed dogs. Clinical signs can occur between 5 and 7 months of age, although they are sometimes not detected until the dog develops osteoarthritis.



FPO [3D ELBOW IMAGE]

### NORMAL ELBOW

- A healthy elbow joint has a smooth, thin cartilage.
- The coronoid process remains attached.
- A normal joint structure facilitates a normal joint function without clinical signs of pain.



FPO [IMAGE OF FRAGMENTED CORONOID PROCESS]

### FRAGMENTED CORONOID PROCESS

- In cases of a fragmented coronoid process, the coronoid presents with fissures or is completely separate from the bone, allowing it to move around and damage the cartilage.
- Osteoarthritis will develop as a consequence of cartilage damage and subsequent changes in the joint, causing pain and inflammation.

## CLINICAL SYMPTOMS

- Acute or chronic lameness in the front leg, which worsens with exercise
- The animal presents with stiff joints in the morning and after rest
- These symptoms may appear after a trauma



## TREATMENT OPTIONS

### Non-surgical management

- **Weight control.** It's vital to avoid allowing the animal to become overweight, as this will accelerate the onset of osteoarthritis.
- **Anti-inflammatory drugs.** Anti-inflammatory drugs are used to reduce pain and inflammation in the joint, thereby improving the animal's quality of life.
- **Dietary supplements.** Dietary supplements can be added to the diet for different purposes. Glucosamine with chondroitin sulphate supports the joint cartilage. Omega-3 fatty acids are used for their anti-inflammatory properties.

Conservative treatment can be applied but if the loose fragment is not surgically removed it may continue to damage the cartilage.

### Surgical intervention

- **Removal of fragmented coronoid process.** This involves surgical removal of the fragment that is contributing to the pain and inflammation.

Your veterinarian will discuss with you whether your dog needs a surgical intervention.

If you decide to go ahead with surgery, it must be performed as soon as possible to prevent the onset the osteoarthritis.



## TIPS FOR THE OWNER

- It is important to restrict your pet's movement and activity during the recovery period after surgery.
- Gentle, short exercises that encourage recovery of the affected joint as directed by your vet.
- Using a harness that provides support and assistance on walks will help your pet to cope with the joint pain.
- Physiotherapy is beneficial during the recovery period or for treatment of osteoarthritis and aims to improve the mobility of the affected limb.
- High-quality food and calorie restriction play a fundamental part in keeping your dog's weight under control.
- Don't forget to use medical treatment to reduce pain and inflammation, and to improve your pet's quality of life.

**Please consult with your veterinarian for confirmation of any diagnosis or treatment.**