

Splenic Tumor/Hemangiosarcoma In Canines:

Your dog has evidence of a splenic mass on physical examination, x-ray, and/or ultrasound. Approximately 33% of splenic masses are benign, meaning it is not a type of tumor that spreads to other parts of the body. However, even these benign tumors can rupture, causing rapid blood loss and even sudden death. When the tumor is actively bleeding they can die very quickly.

Unfortunately, approximately 67% of splenic masses are malignant, meaning they will spread to other areas of the body. Most malignant splenic tumors are hemangiosarcomas. If a splenic tumor has ruptured it is more likely to be malignant, if it has not ruptured it is more likely to be benign.

Treatment options:

1) Spleen removal : \$2,500 - \$3,500

If it is a benign tumor, this is curative and dogs in general do well without a spleen; if malignant, survival time is 1 month. This is extended to 6 months if chemotherapy is also pursued.

This includes emergency surgery, histopathology to determine the nature of the tumor, and 1-2 days of hospital stay. The price may increase if blood transfusions, complications, or additional hospital stay are indicated.

2) Conservative Management: *may not be an option in all cases* \$250 - \$2,000

This includes use of Yunnan baiyao (Chinese herb helpful in bleeding), PSP Mushrooms, other medical and IV fluids as indicated, and hospitalization for 36-48 hours. The price may increase if blood transfusions or other complications occur or if further hospitalization is needed.

Blood transfusions are often needed when the spleen is bleeding profusely. Depending on the size of the pet and the rate of blood loss, more than one transfusion may be necessary. EACH transfusion is ~\$800.

3) Euthanasia: \$194 - \$404

1. NSAIDS- Carprofen, Meloxicam, Aspirin may be recommended to help reduce blood vessel formation. We have at Scottsdale Vet.

2. Yunnan Baiyao- 60-75 mg /kg/day. This helps prevent bleeding and can slow cancer growth. This we have at Scottsdale Vet

3. PSP Mushrooms-(I'm Yunity) 100 mg/kg/day. This has been proven to delay metastasis by 4 months over just splenectomy. These can be ordered online

4. Aminocaproic Acid- give 1,000 mg (50 mg/kg) 3 times per day for life. This generally can be purchased or ordered at Walgreens or CVS.