



Treatment Options for Mature Canine Hip Dysplasia (Osteoarthritis stage)

Some dogs have severe changes on x-rays, but are minimally symptomatic in life or are well managed with joint supplements, anti-inflammatories and maintaining a lean body conformation. If that is the case, surgery may not be needed -- at least not now. If, however, your pet remains symptomatic despite comprehensive medical management, then surgical treatment should be considered. The surgical options are as follows:

- 1) **Total Hip Replacement** - This is replacement of the degenerative "ball in socket" hip joint with a surgical grade prosthetic ball and socket. These cost ~ \$4500-5500 in our hospital and the procedures. This procedure is typically done on the more symptomatic hip and surgery can be done on the 2nd hip in the future if necessary. Some dogs derive enough symptomatic improvement from one hip replacement that they don't really need the second hip done. If you wish to consider this option, you should set up an appointment here at CSU (970.297.5000).
- 2) **Femoral Head & Neck Excision** - This is removal of the "ball" of the ball-in-socket hip joint and it leaves the pet with a "false joint" that is supported by the surrounding muscles. Small breeds of dogs and cats consistently do very well with this procedure. Larger breeds of dogs can do very well, but it is a bit less consistent in these larger dogs. These cost ~ \$1800/hip in our hospital. Surgery is typically performed on the more symptomatic hip and surgery can be done on the 2nd hip in the future if necessary. You can't really go back and do a Total Hip Replacement if a patient isn't functioning well after Femoral Head & Neck Excision.
- 3) **Pectineal myotectomy** - This is a bit of an "old school" procedure that involves cutting the tendon of origin of one of the groin muscles in attempt to reduce the pain associated with hip dysplasia. It does not alter the x-ray progression of the disease. This procedure fell out of favor some years ago because of a reputation as being a short-term solution.... though there is little published research on the procedure. Occasionally, we will hear from veterinarians who still perform the procedure regularly and state that they like the results, but no peer-reviewed studies have been published on the procedure. We have very little experience with this procedure in our hospital at this time.
- 4) **Hip Joint Denervation** - This is an 'investigational' procedure that involves surgically "numbing" the joint so that the pain is reduced. There are mixed results reported with this procedure and there is some concern about duration of the 'numbing effect'. Colleagues of ours in other countries perform this procedure and are very pleased with the results. We have very little experience with this procedure in our hospital at this time.

We strive to tailor our recommendations to the individual needs of the patient and owner.