

Mountain View Animal Hospital
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HYPOTHYROIDISM

I. General Information

1. The thyroid gland is located in the neck near the larynx and produces thyroid hormone in all mammalian species.
2. Thyroid hormone is important for the maintenance of normal body functions.
3. A deficiency of thyroid hormone can be evident in a number of ways (i.e. weight gain, lethargy, heat seeking, loss of hair, seborrhea, recurrent infections, etc.)
4. Hypothyroidism occurs most frequently in middle-ages or older dogs although it can appear at a much younger age in larger breeds.

II. Diagnosis

1. A diagnosis may be made by measuring the resting level of thyroid hormone circulating in the blood stream. This test is about 80% accurate.
2. A more accurate test involves the use of thyroid stimulating hormone. An injection is given after the resting level is sampled and a second sample is taken 6 hours later to see if the gland responds normally.

III. Treatment

1. Thyroid hormone deficiency, is treated by using a synthetic hormone replacement. Because of the higher metabolic turn-over of thyroid hormone in the dog, they require much higher and more frequent dosages when compared to humans. Treatment is needed for the rest of your dog's life, with possible dosage adjustments.
2. Your dog will be treated with _____ at a dose of _____ mg given _____ daily.
3. We would like to recheck the resting thyroid level ____ 30 days after the initiation of treatment to make sure that he/she is on the proper drugs.
4. Personality changes are usually seen within 1 to 2 weeks. Coat changes are seen in about 4 to 6 weeks.
5. When blood is rechecked bring in **6 hours** after the morning pill.

Soloxine

Soloxine is a prescribed medication for hypothyroidism. Like any medication your animal must be examined every year for a prescription refill.

Therapy for hypothyroidism is lifelong. All abnormalities are reversible with the use of Soloxine. But the dog's required dosage of Soloxine may change over time or if other concurrent illnesses occur. The recommended protocol for using Soloxine is as follows:

1. Following initial treatment: recheck the thyroid value every 30 days until a proper therapeutic level is reached.
2. The thyroid value should then be checked annually.

Signs of a chronic overdose include: increased heart rate, increased appetite, increased water intake and urination, excitability, nervousness and excessive panting.