



ABOUT THE DISEASE

A ***gallbladder mucocele*** is an abnormal accumulation of bile-laden mucus within the gallbladder. This accumulation can cause an obstruction within the bile duct system.

Once seen as a rare condition, a ***gallbladder mucocele*** has recently been reported as the most common cause of extrahepatic biliary obstruction. Please see the [*Cholestasis*](#) document for additional information on liver and bile duct obstruction.

Older small- to medium-sized dogs are usually affected, most commonly seen in cocker spaniels, shetland sheepdogs, and miniature schnauzers.

Symptoms are often sudden and include abdominal pain, uncontrolled vomiting, decreased appetite (anorexia), lethargy, weight loss, and yellowing of the skin/eyes/gums (icterus/jaundice).

OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

An abdominal ultrasound is the preferred choice for diagnosis.

Standard in-house blood tests will help determine general liver disease, but findings are not often specific for a ***gallbladder mucocele***.

TREATMENT

Emergency surgery is usually the only therapeutic option to prevent rupture and alleviate abdominal pain.

Hospitalization and medical management with antibiotic therapy and liver protectants may also be required.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Do not delay surgical intervention as most ***gallbladder mucocele*** will not resolve on their own