



ABOUT THE DISEASE

Epistaxis is the medical term for a bloody nose, but is used for both minor and severe cases of nasal hemorrhage. There is no single cause for *epistaxis* and can range from a local problem within the sinuses to a system problem of spontaneous hemorrhage and coagulation disorders.

Common local nasal problems may include:

- Nasal infections – sometimes bacterial, but more concerning if fungal
- Severe allergies – dry and irritated sinuses, met with repeated sneezing fits
- Tooth root abscesses – typically will only hemorrhage through a single nostril
- Cancer

Common systemic problems may include:

- Low platelet count – can be caused by some infectious diseases, autoimmune diseases, bone marrow disease
- Coagulopathy – caused by certain rat poisons, liver disease, blood protein loss

OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

Physical examination performed by a veterinarian will help identify risks locally or systemically.

Routine blood work and blood coagulation testing is relatively simple to perform and can be done at most initial consultations.

Dental cleaning, dental x-rays (radiographs), and tooth extractions are often performed to determine if dental disease is present that could not be found on routine examination.

In more advanced cases, patients may require advanced imaging of the skull (MRI/CT) or even have a scope placed into the sinuses (rhinoscopy) for biopsies and cultures. These are often done at referral centers.

TREATMENT

Treatment is directed at the underlying condition or primary cause, based upon laboratory results.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- There is no single cause for *epistaxis*, but an examination can help narrow the possibilities.
- Always elect routine laboratory testing at initial visit to ensure severe systemic diseases are not present.