



## IBUPROFEN TOXICITY

### ABOUT THE DISEASE

**Ibuprofen** is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) medication that is toxic to household pets. **Ibuprofen** in pets can cause issues with the gastrointestinal tract, kidneys, and central nervous system.

Feline patients tend to be more severely affected by **ibuprofen** ingestion than dogs due to differences in metabolism.

Common clinical signs of **ibuprofen** toxicity include:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Gastrointestinal hemorrhage
- Tremors, seizures, and coma
- Renal failure

### OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

A thorough clinical history and physical examination with a veterinarian will yield a presumptive diagnosis.

There are no specific tests to confirm **ibuprofen** toxicity, but routine laboratory and urine testing can be supportive in patients where this is thought to be likely. Additionally, routine tests will help determine the presence or extent of kidney injury due to ingestion.

### TREATMENT

If the patient is seen within the first few hours of ingestion, vomiting can be induced to clear the stomach of any remaining **ibuprofen** and activated charcoal can be administered to bind any potential toxin that is present throughout the intestinal tract.

These patients should be started on intravenous (IV) fluids and be administered gastroprotectant medications to help combat any gastrointestinal disruption that can be caused by this medication.

Additional bloodwork should be taken throughout the treatment process to evaluate kidney function and confirm that the patient is returning to normal with treatment.

In patients with seizures, anti-epileptic medications should be administered.

### TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Keep medications in the home in locations where pets cannot have access. Many patients ingest these medications by chewing through the bottles.
- Contact ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888.426.4435) for immediate triage of toxicities.
- Seek immediate care for interventional therapies.