



HYPOCALCEMIA

ABOUT THE DISEASE

Hypocalcemia is a condition characterized by low calcium levels in the blood stream. While calcium is primarily regulated by a hormone released from the parathyroid gland, there are several conditions that can cause low blood calcium.

Some conditions that can cause low blood calcium may include animals who are nursing, kidney failure, pancreatic inflammation (pancreatitis), and some diseases of the parathyroid gland.

Symptoms may include weakness, muscle twitching, painful muscular cramping, disorientation, incoordination, and seizures in extreme cases.

OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

Confirmation of **hypocalcemia** is done through blood testing.

A thorough clinical history and physical exam by a veterinarian the goal will be to find the root cause to treat appropriately. Further testing may be recommended by a DVM to determine causes such as a PTH blood test to determine if the parathyroid glands are working properly.

TREATMENT

Treatment for **hypocalcemia** will depend on the severity of symptoms.

If a patient is having an acute crisis with seizures/twitching or levels are dangerously low, hospitalization will be needed, and calcium will be given intravenously. After the crisis is over or if the patient was stable at presentation oral calcium and vitamin D supplements will be started. The underlying cause will determine the duration of treatment, hypoparathyroidism requires lifelong treatment versus short term disorders like nursing or pancreatitis.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- The definitive treatment for hypocalcemia is to eliminate the underlying cause by following a treatment plan developed by your veterinarian.
- Monitoring bloodwork, specifically ionized calcium, will be required and will be more frequent in the beginning stages of treatment but once normalized frequency will reduce.