

Urethral bulking for incontinence



Procedure: This minimally invasive procedure is performed under anesthesia. A rigid cystoscope is used to examine the bladder and the urethra. A small volume of an engineered gelatin-type product is then injected into 3-4 sites in the tissues near the neck of the urinary bladder.

Indications: Mild to moderate urinary incontinence due to urethral sphincter mechanism incompetence.

Patient eligibility (species, size, gender): Female dogs whose distal urethra can accommodate a rigid cystoscope (usually >5 kg). Alternative methods may be considered in male dogs. A recent negative urine culture is required.

Cost: \$3500 - \$4500 (anesthesia, cystoscopy and bulking agent). Pre-procedure tests (bloodwork, urine culture, etc) will add to this cost.

Length of stay: Patients are usually discharged the same day.

Complications: Complications are very rare, but could include infection, granuloma formation, transient inability to urinate, or urethral scarring.

Anticipated outcome: Most dogs show a significant improvement immediately; continued improvement is expected over the next few weeks. Concurrent medical therapy may be needed to support continence. A small number of dogs will not show any improvement. Urethral bulking injections are expected to last >10 months (on average), and can be repeated as necessary.

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