

## clinical snapshot # 1

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### CASE PRESENTATION

A 3-year-old male neutered dachshund was presented with a 6-week history of vomiting and weight loss and a 2-week history of diarrhea. On physical examination, the dog was severely emaciated and depressed. Dilated bowel loops were palpated in the cranial abdomen. Abdominal ultrasonography was performed.



1. Based on this ultrasonogram, what is your diagnosis?
2. How would you treat this condition?
3. What methods are used to prevent recurrence?

*(See p. 942 for answers and explanations.)*

## clinical snapshot #1

### ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

(case presentation on p. 915)



1. Intestinal intussusception. This image shows the classic "target sign" or "bull's-eye sign" seen on abdominal ultrasonography, formed by the concentric rings of the outer intussusciens and the inner intussusceptum.
2. This is a surgical condition. Surgical correction can include manual reduction, intestinal resection and anastomosis, or both.
3. Recurrence is common in cases of intussusception, reported in as many as 11% to 20% of cases.<sup>1</sup> When recurrence occurs, it is often at a different location. Enteroplication of the small intestine is recommended to reduce the chance of recurrence. This procedure involves creation of serosal adhesions by suturing adjacent loops of intestine together. Studies have shown that enteroplication, when performed from the duodenocolic ligament to the ileocolic junction, significantly reduces the rate of recurrence.<sup>1</sup> However, a recent paper suggested that enteroplication may increase the occurrence of intestinal obstruction and strangulation.<sup>2</sup> Arranging the intestines into gentle folds during enteroplication, thereby avoiding sharp bends that might prevent the passage of sharp, larger material, may minimize these postoperative complications.

Intussusception is most commonly seen in animals younger than 1 year of age. Although the condition may present as a sequela to intestinal parasitism, viral enteritis, foreign bodies, intestinal masses, or prior surgery, the majority of intussusceptions seen in small animals are idiopathic. Intussusception may be found anywhere along the gastrointestinal tract, but ileocolic intussusceptions are the most common. Although most cases are acute, this case had a chronic presentation. An ileocolic intussusception was confirmed at surgery. There were extensive adhesions between the intussusciens and the intussusceptum, and a portion of the jejunal arteries had been incorporated within the intussusception. These were carefully dissected out to permit continued perfusion of a large section of jejunum. Following resection and anastomosis of the affected segment, enteroplication was performed. An easily digestible diet was prescribed postoperatively, and the dog returned to a good body weight within 2 months with no further gastrointestinal upset.

#### References

1. Levitt L, Bauer MS: Intussusception in dogs and cats: A review of thirty-six cases. *Can Vet J* 33:660-664, 1992.
2. Applewhite AA, Hawthorne JC, Cornell KK: Complications of enteroplication for the prevention of intussusception recurrence in dogs: 35 cases (1989-1999). *JAVMA* 219:1415-1418, 2001.