

Frequently Asked Questions – Meibomian Gland Adenoma Cryosurgery

What is a Meibomian gland adenoma? This is the most common eyelid tumor in dogs, occurring most frequently in middle aged to older patients. These tumors are usually benign and arise from the meibomian glands along the eyelid margins. There are 180 meibomian glands per eyelid and it is possible for a tumor to arise from any one of these glands.

What kind of care is needed after surgery? We are *usually* able to remove these during the initial appointment without using general anesthesia. One eye drop, an antibiotic, will need to be administered 4 times a day for approximately 2 weeks. An oral pain medication will be sent home as well and need to be administered twice daily for 10 days post-surgery. Moderate discharge from the eye may be present for 10-14 days that will require daily cleansing using a warm water-soaked cotton ball.

How long will my pet have to wear the e-collar? The areas treated must be allowed to heal without rubbing. If your pet is rubbing at the surgical site, we recommend a protective collar be placed for up to 10 days post surgery.

How will my pet look after surgery? A red tinged tear or bloody discharge may be present for up to 30 minutes following the procedure. If this occurs, use gauze to hold gentle pressure on the area and if necessary, use warm tap water to clean around the eye. Eyelid and facial swelling may be present after surgery. The severity may vary between patients, and depends on the amount of freezing applied to the lids. The skin in this area may also appear bruised or ulcerated, which will resolve within 5-7 days. If the swelling is severe, a pack of frozen peas may be applied to the area in intervals based on what your pet will allow. In 3-5 days following surgery, any area of the lid that was treated will begin to lose pigment and appear white/pink in color. The pigment will return to normal over the next 3-6 weeks. Some swelling and discharge may remain until the pigment completely returns. Rarely, hair around the surgical site that was previously dark in color may return white.

Can my pet be alone the day after surgery? Yes. We recommend using a kennel or a confined area of your home, such as a kitchen, and away from other pets when left alone.

Are there any complications I should watch for after surgery? Complications associated with this surgery are usually related to self-trauma (rubbing the treated area too soon). This procedure is 98% effective at removing the tumor in the affected gland. Rarely, the tumor can reoccur in the same gland and freezing may need to be repeated. This is why it is absolutely necessary to return for the 1 month recheck, which is included in the surgery cost. Please note; a tumor can arise in any of the 180 glands along the eyelids. This means if a tumor arises in a different gland, or if complications do arise, additional rechecks, surgery, and/or medications may be necessary.

What if my pet does not respond to freezing treatment? Roughly 2% of tumors, for unknown reasons, can fail to respond to freezing. If this happens, surgical excision of the affected gland is usually recommended. This will require hospitalization, general anesthesia, and a wedge-shaped removal of part of the eyelid. Scarring is very minimal from this procedure. This will also require sutures to be placed and a cone to be worn after surgery. Cost of this additional procedure, if warranted, ranges from \$1400-\$1700. A detailed estimate will be provided.

I have read and understand the above information. The risks and complications associated with surgery have been explained to me to my understanding and satisfaction. I understand that I am responsible for asking any questions I have about this surgical procedure, aftercare instructions, and possible complications associated with this surgical procedure prior to pursuing surgery. In signing below, I understand and accept these risks.

X _____ DATE _____