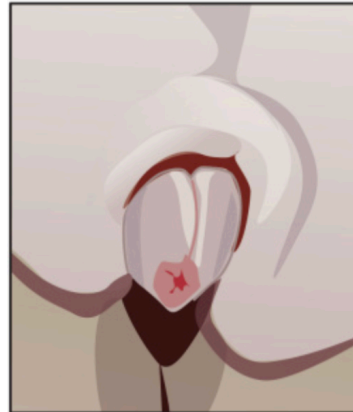


Vulvoplasty (Vulvar Fold Dermatitis)

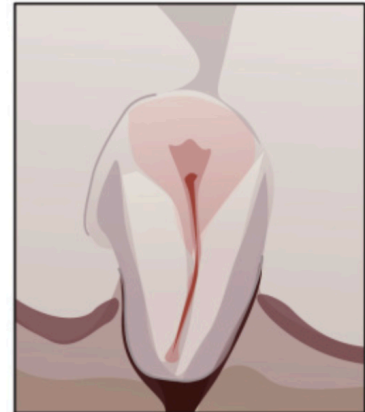
Associated Terms:

Juvenile Vulva, Recessed Vulva, Episioplasty

OVERVIEW



Recessed vulva



Normal vulva

Excessive skin folds around the vulva can lead to the accumulation of urine & vaginal secretions. A moist, dark environment is created where bacteria & yeast can thrive, resulting in vulvar fold dermatitis. Episioplasty, also known as vulvoplasty, is a reconstructive surgical procedure performed to remove excess skin folds around the vulva to provide better ventilation of the area.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- Bloody Urination
- Frequent Urination
- Foul Odor
- Inappropriate Urination
- Licking or Scooting
- Persistent Urinary Tract Infections (UTI)
- Red irritated Skin Around Vulva

DIAGNOSTICS

- Physical Exam
- Complete Blood Work
- Urinalysis
- Urine Bacterial Culture
- Ultrasound of the Urinary Bladder

TREATMENT



Medical management of vulvar fold dermatitis with systemic antibiotics, topical antibiotics, cleansing, drying agents or lotions may be successful, but is often unrewarding.

For the majority of cases surgery is warranted.

Surgical treatment (episioplasty), is a reconstructive procedure aimed at removing the redundant skin folds around the vulva. The amount of perivulvar skin to be removed is determined by pinching the redundant skin between the thumb & forefingers. A crescent-shape incision is made around the vulva & the excessive skin & subcutaneous tissue is removed.

AFTERCARE

- Controlled chest harness activity for 2 weeks
- Cold compresses during the first 24–48 hours will aid in decreasing inflammation
- Oral analgesics, such as NSAID (Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory) drugs or mild opioids
- Surgical sutures are removed in ~14 days after surgery. Most pets are irritated by the surgical wound & need to wear an Elizabethan e-collar until the sutures are removed.
- Antibiotics may be necessary to control the skin infection.

PROGNOSIS

The prognosis after episioplasty is excellent. Inadequate removal of perivulvar skin may result in persistence of perivulvar dermatitis & removal of too much perivulvar skin may cause dehiscence due to tension.

These complications are avoided with good surgical technique & operative planning.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask your veterinarian &/or veterinary surgeon.

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