



ENDOVET

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Endoscopic Tumour Management

Introduction:

At EndoVet Referrals, we offer minimally invasive tumour management using interventional endoscopy. This technique allows for precise tumour removal, debulking, or treatment in various areas, including the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and urinary tracts, without the need for major surgery.

What is Intervention Endoscopy - Tumour Management

Interventional endoscopy uses a flexible camera and specialised instruments to remove or reduce tumours, improving symptoms and your pet's quality of life. Treatments may include:

- Tumour debulking – Reducing tumour size to relieve obstruction.
- Laser ablation – Using a laser to destroy abnormal tissue.
- Stent placement – Keeping airways, the oesophagus, or the urethra open if blocked by a tumour.

This approach minimises recovery time, discomfort, and surgical risks compared to traditional surgery.

Indications for Tumour Management?

This procedure may be suitable for pets with:

- Nasal or airway tumours – Causing breathing difficulties.
- Gastrointestinal tumours – Leading to vomiting, weight loss, or obstruction.
- Bladder or urethral tumours – Resulting in straining, blood in urine, or urinary blockage.

Our team will assess if interventional endoscopy is the best option for your pet.

What are the alternatives?

- Surgical Tumour Removal: Open surgery to fully or partially remove the tumour, often used for larger or deeply invasive tumours.
- Radiation Therapy: Targeted radiation to shrink or destroy tumours, often used for inoperable or residual growths.
- Chemotherapy: Systemic or local medication to slow tumour growth or reduce symptoms, particularly for malignant tumours.
- Medical Management: Anti-inflammatory drugs, pain relief, or tumour-specific medications to manage symptoms if surgical or endoscopic intervention isn't an option.
- Palliative Care: Supportive care to improve comfort and maintain quality of life in cases where treatment is not curative.

The best approach depends on the tumour type, location, and overall health of your pet. Our team will guide you on the most suitable treatment plan.

What are the risks?

Anaesthetic Risks

- Reactions to sedation or anaesthesia, particularly in pets with pre-existing conditions such as heart, liver, or kidney disease.

Procedure-related Risks

- Bleeding – Typically minimal but may require intervention.
- Incomplete removal – Some tumours may require additional treatments.
- Tissue damage or scarring – Rare but possible, particularly in sensitive areas.
- Recurrence – Tumours may regrow, requiring further monitoring or treatment.

Our experienced team takes every precaution to minimise these risks and ensure a successful outcome.

Endoscopic Tumour Management Procedure

Pre-Operative Consultation

- Pre-clinical examination of your pet.
- Procedure discussion with a senior surgeon.
- For long-distance clients, a clinical examination may be carried out by your local vet and a phone consultation will be arranged with one of our senior surgeons prior to surgery.
- Medical Review: Please inform us of all your pet's medications, including over-the-counter treatments. Certain drugs, like steroids or NSAIDs, may need to be paused, and special instructions apply for pets with conditions like diabetes or heart disease.

1

Admission & Preparation

- Withhold food for 6–12 hours before the procedure.
- Water: Restrict water for 2–4 hours before arrival.
- Please make sure your pet has had the opportunity to go to the toilet before arriving at the clinic.
- A team member will review the procedure with you, answer any questions, and obtain your consent.
- Your pet will undergo a clinical examination, and blood tests or imaging may be performed.
- An intravenous catheter will be placed to administer fluids, anaesthesia, and medications if needed.

2

Tumour Management

- Your pet will be placed under general anaesthesia for safety and comfort. A flexible endoscope is inserted into the affected area to locate the tumour. Depending on the case, specialised tools may be used for removal, laser ablation, or stent placement.

The procedure typically takes 30–90 minutes, depending on the complexity of the case.

3

Recovery & Monitoring

- Your pet will be closely monitored until they recover from anaesthesia.
- A small, bland meal will be offered before discharge.
- Most pets experience minimal discomfort due to the small incisions, and additional pain relief will be provided if needed.

4

Home Recovery

- Monitor Recovery: Watch for signs of discomfort as the anaesthesia wears off.
- Incision Care: Keep incision sites clean and dry; use an Elizabethan collar if needed.
- Diet: Offer a soft diet and gradually return to regular food.
- Limit Activity: Restrict physical activity for 7–14 days.

5

Next Steps & Follow Up

A follow-up appointment may be required to assess recovery and biopsy results if samples were taken. Further treatments may be discussed based on your pet's progress.

Further information

When to contact us:

Contact us immediately if you notice:

- Difficulty breathing, swallowing, or urinating.
- Excessive bleeding, swelling, or signs of discomfort.
- Any unusual symptoms following the procedure.

Contact Us

To Refer a routine case, please use the referral form on our website.

Call:
01543 373 033

Email:
Referrals@endovetclinic.co.uk

Our Services

To see our full list of services, visit:
www.veterinaryendoscopy.co.uk

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