



8120 S. Cass Ave , Darien, IL 60561 (630) 598-0600

Lymphoma

General Information

Lymphoma (or lymphosarcoma) is cancer of lymphocytes (a type of white blood cell). Numerous parts of the body can be affected, including external and internal lymph nodes (a primary location of lymphoma), spleen, liver, gastrointestinal (GI) tract, bone marrow, and nervous system. In dogs, the most common areas affected are the lymph nodes in the neck and rear legs. In cats, the GI tract or internal organs are most often affected.

Some pets have no other signs of illness other than lymph node enlargement, while others have a decrease in appetite, vomiting, diarrhea or lethargy. In general, pets that don't "act sick" have a better outlook than those that feel bad.

Lymphoma can be treated, but in most cases pets cannot be cured. If the best chemotherapy protocol is used, we can expect about a 12 month survival time on average. Pets that do not respond well to treatment may not live more than a few months, while some patients that respond well are still doing well over 18 months later. Although this seems to be a short time, it must be remembered that 1 year survival in a dog or cat is equivalent to 6 to 7 year survival in people. Our goal is for the survival time to be of excellent quality. We do not tolerate adverse effects from chemotherapy and if necessary, will adjust our protocol in order to avoid them. At all costs we want your pet to be comfortable and to feel GOOD. If you have any concerns or questions about your pet's cancer treatment, please do not hesitate to ask one of the staff or doctors. We're all here to help.

Pre-treatment work-up

These tests have a number of important functions:

1. They allow the veterinarian to assess the overall health of your pet
2. They provide baseline values which can be compared to values obtained during treatment to evaluate for response to chemotherapy and monitoring for possible side effects
3. They assist the veterinarian in assessing your pet for conditions and risk factors that may impact therapy and/or prognosis

Some or all of these tests may have been done already, in the course of diagnosing your pet's cancer, and include:

- Lymph node aspiration and / or biopsy
- Complete blood count (CBC)
- Blood chemistry panel
- Urine analysis
- Radiographs (x-rays) of the abdomen and chest
- Echocardiogram (heart ultrasound)
- Abdominal ultrasound
- Bone marrow biopsy

An estimate for the pre-treatment work-up for your pet will be provided upon request.

Monitoring during therapy

Throughout your pet's anti-cancer treatment, tests are periodically performed to help monitor response to treatment. They are also done to assess your pet's health and the severity of any side effects from treatment so we can help minimize reactions. While most pets tolerate therapy extremely well, all anti-cancer treatments have the potential for

side effects. Most are mild and do not require treatment, or may simply result in a minor change in drug dosage or administration schedule. Occasionally, a more significant side effect is seen, and may require treatment (ranging from oral medication and dietary therapy at home to partial day or overnight hospitalization).

Costs for the chemotherapy treatments and monitoring vary widely depending on specific drugs used and size of the pet being treated. An estimate of costs can be prepared for your pet; please ask a nurse or doctor for more information.