

# Triaditis

## BASIC INFORMATION

### Description

Triaditis is a word used to describe concurrent inflammation of the pancreas, liver and small intestines. The syndrome has been reported in over 50% of cats diagnosed with pancreatitis and in 35-50% of cats with inflammatory liver disease.

In short, cats with this syndrome have some combination of [pancreatitis](#), [IBD](#) and [inflammatory liver disease](#).

### Causes

While not perfectly understood how pancreatitis and its relationship to inflammation in other organ systems is related, preliminary studies point to how cats handle organ inflammation with regards to the interconnection between gut, pancreas and the liver, as well as the relationship of bacteria within the gut. There are theories that this is an immune-mediated disease. (its complicated!)

### Clinical Signs

Lethargy and loss of appetite are common. Vomiting or feelings of nausea demonstrated as lip smacking, excessive drooling of saliva and yawning are also common. Some cats may lose weight and appear unkept. Although the clinical signs can be dramatic and severe, they are unfortunately non-specific for most diseases.

To restate as above, cats with this disease have signs in common with several diseases.

### Diagnostic Tests

Blood tests and X-rays may **point the way** to this diagnosis, but it must be understood that to have an absolute diagnosis, biopsies of intestines, liver and pancreas are generally needed. This may be done surgically or with the help of abdominal ultrasound. Ultrasound may also show evidence of the disease but in many cases organs can appear normal. Biopsy is also needed to separate this disease from intestinal lymphoma and other cancers.



## **TREATMENT AND FOLLOW-UP**

### **Treatment Options**

Keeping in mind that there are several disease issues in play, we currently treat cats with suspected Triaditis thusly:

1. Anti-inflammatory medication like prednisone every 1-3 days
2. Vitamin B-12 supplementation.
3. Special diets, usually Hills Probiome made specially for these cats
4. Additionally, limited ingredient or hypoallergenic diets have been used.
5. Long term low dose antibiotic therapy has also been employed.
6. Supplements to improve liver function may also be used.

### **Follow-up Care**

Cats typically are examined in 6 month intervals and blood testing performed to assess success of the treatment.

### **Prognosis**

Prognosis for most cats is fair and as it occurs most frequently in older cats, we are trying to improve quality and quantity of life, not specifically curing the illness.