

## Now Offering Hemoperfusion (HP)

### What is hemoperfusion?

Hemoperfusion is a treatment where a patient's blood is passed through a special filter outside the body. This filter contains materials that can remove toxins or harmful substances from the blood. It's a newer treatment in veterinary medicine, but studies show it can be helpful for certain drug overdoses and poisonings. It may also help with serious conditions that cause inflammation, like sepsis, SIRS, or heat stroke. Only specially trained veterinary specialists perform this procedure.

### What is the process of hemoperfusion?

The first step of this treatment is placing a special catheter into a vein in your pet's neck. This allows blood to flow out, be cleaned, and then returned to your pet's body. To make this comfortable and safe, your pet will be sedated and closely monitored by a trained veterinarian and technician.

Once the catheter is in place, your pet's blood will flow through a special filter (the hemoperfusion column) to remove any toxins. A medication will be given during the treatment to prevent the blood from clotting, and your pet's blood will be checked regularly. Most pets rest or sleep comfortably during the procedure. Some younger or anxious animals may feel stressed, and anti-anxiety medication can be given if needed. The treatment usually takes 3–5 hours, depending on your pet's condition. After the blood has been filtered, it is all returned to your pet, and they are monitored in the ICU. For most toxicities, only one treatment is needed. Depending on the type of toxin and timing, your veterinarian may recommend additional treatments or follow-up blood work in the days after the procedure.

### Is my pet a good candidate for hemoperfusion?

Hemoperfusion can help remove certain drugs and toxins from your pet's blood, but it's not suitable for every situation. Please contact our Extracorporeal Service to see if your pet is a good candidate. Time is of the essence in these cases and the sooner we begin treatment, the higher our chances of success will be.

The most common drugs we treat include:

- NSAIDs (like carprofen, meloxicam, ibuprofen, naproxen)
- Xylitol
- Anti-depressants (such as fluoxetine/Prozac, sertraline/Zoloft)
- Anti-seizure medications (like phenobarbital)
- Baclofen
- Rodenticides

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Each case is evaluated individually, taking into account your pet's health, the amount and timing of exposure, and other risk factors.

### **What are the risks and side effects of hemoperfusion?**

Hemoperfusion is generally very safe and well tolerated. The most common side effect is a drop in platelets, which are the blood cells that help with clotting. Because we give a medication to prevent the blood from clotting during treatment, there is a small risk of bleeding, and in rare cases, a transfusion may be needed.

Your pet will also be sedated to place the catheter, which carries its own small risks, such as reactions to the medication or breathing issues.

Finally, it's important to know that no treatment is guaranteed to work. In some cases, pets may still have damage from the toxin, especially if there is a delay between exposure and treatment.