

Feline Triaditis

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Triaditis refers to a syndrome of concurrent inflammatory diseases of the liver, pancreas, and small intestines in cats. Veterinarians believe that the initial symptoms of Triaditis are due to liver disease (cholangitis), with pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas) and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) being secondary. However, some cats may first develop IBD, then pancreatitis and cholangitis.

Feline anatomy is the likely reason these 3 inflammatory diseases occur simultaneously. In cats, the liver's main bile duct and the pancreatic bile duct share a single opening into the small intestine (duodenum). Additionally, the feline duodenum is believed to have 100 times more bacteria than the canine duodenum. Therefore, a cat's vomiting may cause bacteria-laden intestinal fluid to move into the pancreas and the liver through this common opening, which can cause inflammation and bacterial infection in the liver and pancreas.

A RELATIVELY COMMON DIAGNOSIS

Cats suffering from Triaditis may display lethargy, anorexia, vomiting, abdominal pain, weight loss, and diarrhea. However, some cats may show no symptoms. If your cat exhibits any of the above symptoms, see your veterinarian for proper diagnosis via specific blood tests, ultrasound, and/or biopsies.

If your cat is diagnosed with Triaditis, expect treatment recommendations including hospitalization for intravenous fluids, antibiotics, nutritional support, and liver-protective supplements. In some cases, your veterinarian may need to suppress your cat's immune system to effectively reduce organ inflammation.

If you believe your cat may have Triaditis, schedule a veterinarian visit as soon as possible.