

Feline Congestive Heart Failure

Current Diagnosis and Management

Etienne Côté, DVM

KEYWORDS

• Cat • Cardiac • Edema • Effusion • Diuretic

KEY POINTS

- Congestive heart failure (CHF) is a well-recognized, potentially life-threatening result of heart disease; the onset of CHF has important implications for a cat's treatment and prognosis.
- Appropriate medical management of CHF in cats begins with accurately identifying it and excluding other conditions that can produce similar signs.
- The cornerstones of management of acute CHF in cats are avoidance of undue stress, intravenous administration of furosemide, oxygen supplementation, and thoracocentesis in patients with large-volume pleural effusion.
- The cornerstones of management of chronic CHF in cats are identification and elimination of inciting causes (eg, general anesthesia, sustained-release glucocorticoid injections, acute sodium ingestions); oral administration of furosemide and an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor in all cases; and administration of a second diuretic, pimobendan, and other medications in select cases.
- Because the underlying cardiac disease rarely is eliminated, ongoing treatment should be monitored both at home (eg, cat's demeanor, resting respiratory rate) and periodically by the veterinarian.

INTRODUCTION

Why Does It Matter if a Cat with Heart Disease Has Congestive Heart Failure?

Identifying whether a cat has congestive heart failure (CHF) is essential if a correct treatment plan and prognosis are to be delivered to a patient with heart disease.^{1,2} Before the onset of CHF, and despite interesting recent developments,^{3,4} no treatment currently is known to alter the evolution of feline hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM). Conversely, once CHF is present, treatment is considered indispensable and life-saving. This remains true even though, as might be expected on humane grounds, prospective clinical trials have never been conducted to compare diuretic treatment,

The author has nothing to disclose.

Department of Companion Animals, Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island, 550 University Avenue, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island C1A4P3, Canada

Vet Clin Small Anim ■ (2017) ■-■

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cvsm.2017.04.008>

vetsmall.theclinics.com

0195-5616/17/© 2017 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

thoracocentesis, or both, to placebo or sham treatment. It is universally accepted that diuretics and thoracocentesis are essential for managing heart failure patients with pulmonary edema or large-volume pleural effusion, respectively. Prognostically, the onset of CHF represents an important step in the clinical course of cats with heart disease. For example, cats with HCM and CHF have a median survival of 92 to 563 days compared with 1129 to greater than 3617 days in cats that have HCM without CHF.^{1,5,6} Therefore, the categorization of a cat with heart disease as having CHF or not is important for both treatment and prognosis (Fig. 1).

Is It Congestive Heart Failure? Ruling in or Ruling out Congestive Heart Failure

Because CHF is a syndrome, the diagnosis rests on combining information from several sources. The physical sign most commonly recognized in cats with CHF is dyspnea, which characteristically can involve a disproportionate increase in the abdominal effort of respiration. For example, a retrospective study described 14 cats with tricuspid valve dysplasia and the most common abnormality recognized by owners was dyspnea visible as discordant or opposite chest and abdominal wall movements (5/14 cats, 36%); by contrast, 0 out of 36 dogs with the same cardiac malformation had this finding reported by their owners⁷ (chi-square = 14.29; $P < .001$). This observation seems to be especially prominent with pleural effusion.⁸ Cats with CHF due to cardiomyopathy show dyspnea in at least 32% of cases.⁵ An S3 or S4 gallop sound classically is due to increased ventricular diastolic filling pressure, which is essentially always present in CHF. A gallop sound has been reported frequently in cats with HCM and specifically in 32% of CHF cats,⁶ and it is associated

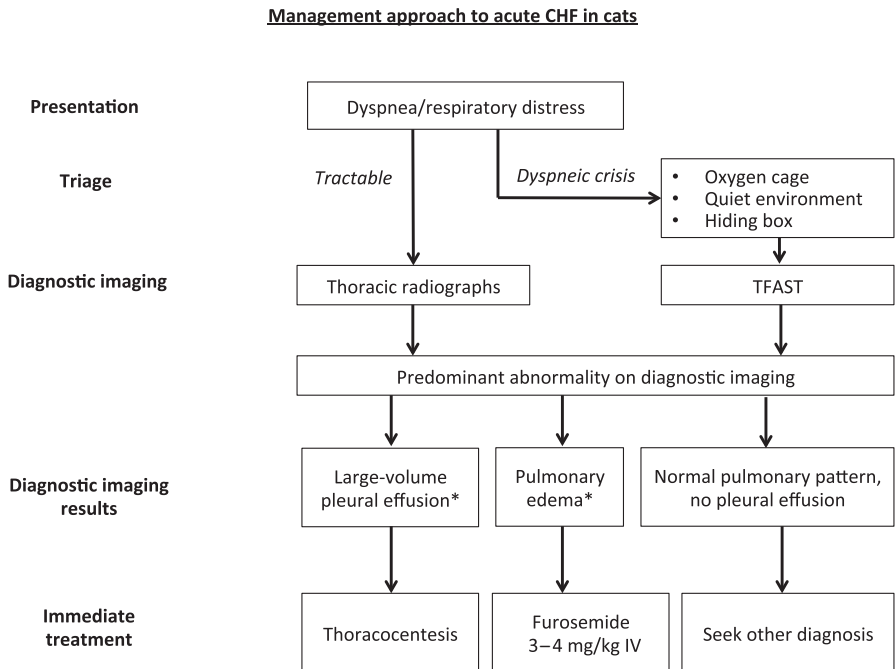


Fig. 1. Algorithm of an approach to the initial management of acute congestive heart failure in cats. Asterisks indicate the concurrent presence of cardiomegaly (radiographs) and/or atrial enlargement (TFAST). TFAST, thoracic focused assessment with sonography for trauma.

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/5544582>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/5544582>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)