

# Feline Cholangitis

Lara Boland, MANZCVS (Feline Medicine)\*, Julia Beatty, BVetMed, PhD, FANZCVS (Feline Medicine)

## KEYWORDS

- Feline • Cat • Cholangitis • Liver • Lymphocytic • Neutrophilic • Inflammation • Fluke

## KEY POINTS

- Inflammatory liver disease (cholangitis) is common in cats.
- Three major forms are recognized: neutrophilic, lymphocytic, and chronic cholangitis. Results of diagnostic modalities, including hematology, biochemistry, abdominal ultrasound, and fecal analysis, can assist in ranking differentials.
- Liver biopsy and/or bile analysis (cytology and bacterial culture) are necessary for definitive diagnosis.
- Empiric antibiotic and other supportive treatments are indicated in clinically unstable cases of suspected neutrophilic cholangitis in which invasive diagnostics carry an unacceptable risk.
- Neutrophilic cholangitis and chronic cholangitis can usually be cured with appropriate treatment. Lymphocytic cholangitis can be managed and some cats have long survival times.

## INTRODUCTION

Inflammatory liver disease is reported to be the most common, or second most common, abnormality detected in feline liver biopsies.<sup>1,2</sup> Hirose and colleagues<sup>2</sup> (2014) diagnosed inflammatory liver disease in 50% of abnormal biopsies submitted to a teaching hospital in Japan. In the United States, 25.7% of cases had inflammatory disease, whereas 49.7% had hepatic lipidosis.<sup>1</sup>

The term cholangitis to describe inflammatory liver disease is favored over cholangiohepatitis. Cholangitis most accurately reflects the histopathological abnormalities that are centered on the biliary tract with secondary, if any, involvement of the hepatic parenchyma. The World Small Animal Veterinary Association standardization committee recognizes 3 forms of feline cholangitis: neutrophilic, lymphocytic, and chronic, the latter associated with liver fluke.<sup>3</sup>

---

Disclosure Statement: The authors have nothing to disclose.

Faculty of Veterinary Science, Valentine Charlton Cat Centre, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, The University of Sydney, 65 Parramatta Road, Sydney, New South Wales 2006, Australia

\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: [lara.boland@sydney.edu.au](mailto:lara.boland@sydney.edu.au)

Vet Clin Small Anim ■ (2016) ■–■  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cvsm.2016.11.015>

0195-5616/16/© 2016 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

[vetsmall.theclinics.com](http://vetsmall.theclinics.com)

This article reviews the etiopathogenesis, clinical findings, risks, and benefits of diagnostic investigations, comorbidities, treatment, and outcomes of feline cholangitis.

## NEUTROPHILIC CHOLANGITIS

Except in liver fluke endemic regions, neutrophilic cholangitis is the most commonly reported form in most studies, making up 56.3% to 90% of cases of inflammatory liver disease.<sup>2,4,5</sup>

## CAUSES

Most cases of neutrophilic cholangitis result from bacterial infection.<sup>6,7</sup> Comorbid disease is common, in particular pancreatitis, either alone or with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) in a syndrome known as triaditis, and may increase the risk of ascending bacterial infection.<sup>5,6,8,9</sup> In the cat, the common bile duct and pancreatic duct usually enter the duodenum together at the major duodenal papilla. Conversely, pancreatitis and IBD may be a consequence of neutrophilic cholangitis.<sup>2</sup>

The role of *Helicobacter* spp in feline neutrophilic cholangitis and/or triaditis is unclear. Although *Helicobacter* spp are detected by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) in the liver and bile of cats with neutrophilic and lymphocytic cholangitis, they are also detected in cats with noninflammatory liver disease and clinically healthy cats.<sup>4,6,10</sup>

## SIGNALMENT

No consistent age, breed, or sex predispositions for neutrophilic cholangitis in cats have been identified.<sup>5,11,12</sup>

## HISTORY

A short history of illness, usually less than 2 weeks, is typical.<sup>7,12</sup> Common historical findings include:<sup>5,11,12</sup>

- Lethargy
- Inappetence
- Anorexia
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Recent weight loss

## PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Physical examination findings include lethargy, dehydration, jaundice, pyrexia, cranial abdominal pain, ptyalism, and hepatomegaly (**Fig. 1**).<sup>5,7,11,12</sup> Ptyalism can occur secondary to nausea or hepatic encephalopathy (see Adam G. Gow's article "[Hepatic Encephalopathy](#)," in this issue). Jaundice can be intrahepatic or posthepatic secondary to partial or complete common bile duct obstruction from biliary tract inflammation or inflammatory debris, concurrent cholelithiasis, or pancreatitis.<sup>7</sup>

## LABORATORY FINDINGS

Laboratory changes can support a diagnosis of neutrophilic cholangitis. Hematological and biochemical abnormalities in cats with neutrophilic cholangitis are summarized in **Table 1**.

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/5544665>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/5544665>

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