**Abdominal wall**











**Wounds of the Abdominal Wall**

**Non perforating abdominal wounds:-**

    They are in the form of wounds or contusions of the skin, subcutaneous tissue and abdominal muscles without rupture or injury to th peritonium.

**Causes:**

1. External trauma as motor car accident or kick from another animal or foreign body as by fork or barbed wire.
2. In small animals, bites and passing through a glass window.

These wounds usually subjected to contamination and infection.

Contusions accompanied with hematoma and or rupture of the abdominal muscles are more liable for herniation.

**Treatment:**

* Wounds of the skin should be trimmed and sutured after local application of antibiotic or sulphonamide.
* The lowest part of the wound should be left unsutured and a piece of sterile gauze is applied in it for drainage. Wounds in the subcutaneous tissue and the muscles are treated in the same way.
* Purulent wound should not be sutured, they can be treated with 10 % iodoform ether.
* Haematoma can be opened 12th day after its formation and treated as usual.

**Perforating abdominal wounds:-**

**Perforating abdominal wound with rupture of the peritonium:**

* This form is not dangerous except in horses.
* Can detected by finger under aspect precautions.
* In recent cases, there is no general disturbances and the wound can be treated as normal with the application of systemic antibiotic.
* When the condition is longer than 1 - 2 days, peritonitis can be suspected which is accompanied by general disturbances, severe abdominal colicy pain, tenderness of the abdominal wall and vomition in small animals.

**Treatment:**

* Cleaning of the wound with hydrogen peroxide or saline, trimming the lips of the wound and suturing of all layers after application of antibiotics.

**Perforating abdominal wounds with prolapse of the omentum:**

* This form is favorable because the omentum closes the wound and prevent infection to go inside.

**Treatment:**

* The prolapsed omentum should be slightly withdrawn and throughly washed with saline solution or warm water.
* A ligature is made at its base and cut the protruded part and return the omentum to the abdomen.
* The abdominal wound is then sutured in several layers.

**Perforating abdominal wounds with prolapse of intestine :**

This forms of wounds are unfavourable, especially of the animal is permited for surgery several hours after the occurance of the accident, due to necrosis and dryness of the peritoneum.

**Treatment:**

* Washing the prolapsed intestine with warm saline solution and reduce it as quickly as possible.
* The lips of the wound are cleaned and trimmed and then sutured.

**Perforating abdominal wounds with injury to the prolapsed intestine:**

* These are the most dangerous form.
* May end with an intestinal fistula.

**Treatment:**

Intestinal resection and anastomosis.