

5th November 2009

Canine Mitral Valve Endocardiosis study

Procedure for processing canine mitral valves

Thank you very much for your contribution in this project. This is the protocol we would like you to follow when retrieving the mitral valve. These samples will be very valuable in our study.

The valve should be removed and processed immediately after euthanasia. If it is possible we would also like to know the age, gender and cardiac history of the dog.

1. Blood (serum) sample

Obtain about 15ml of blood from the right ventricle through 5th intercostal space at the level of the costo-chondral junction. No anti-coagulant required.

2. Dissection of the valve

The apex is opened with a circular incision and an incision is made in the left atrium. The mitral valve is flushed gently with physiological saline (0.9% NaCl or PBS) through the atrium to remove coagulated blood. The left atrium is incised and the heart is opened by an incision running from the left atrium between the anterior and posterior part of the mitral valve through the ventricular wall. The valve is removed by cutting the muscular attachment (annulus) from the wall. Please take a little bit muscle along the edge of the annulus is included, but take care not to touch the valve surface. The chordae are left intact and valve complex removed by sectioning through the papillary muscles.

3. Fixation

The entire mitral valve complex needs to be immersion fixed immediately in 4% paraformaldehyde and posted in a secure manner to;

**Professor Brendan Corcoran
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If paraformaldehyde fixative is need please contact Professor Corcoran;
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