Canine Parvovirus
Condensed Version

**Presentation:** Clinical Sx: Lethargy, anorexia, vomiting, diarrhea (usu bloody), dehydration

**Test(s) of choice:**
- CBC: **Neutropenia, lymphopenia**
- **Fecal ELISA – parvo antigen.** Sens & specific, False pos. = recent vaccs.
- Fecal flotation and wet prep: to rule out concurrent helminthiasis (common)
- Abdominal rads: avoid missing foreign body; intussusception

**Rx of choice:**
- **General- SOLATE parvo suspects**
  - Rehydrate
  - Treat / prevent sepsis
  - Correct potassium, glucose, normalize blood pressure (BP)
  - Stop vomiting, pain control, nutritional support
- **Acute Rx**
  - Admit, ISOLATE, place IV catheter, IV antibiotics (cefazolin or ampicillin)
    - Check hematocrit (Hct)/Total Protein (TP)/glucose
    - IV crystalloid fluid bolus if hypovolemic shock
  - **First 2 hours**
    - **Calculate fluid needs:** Rehydration + maintenance + ongoing losses for 1st 12 hr
    - Give 1/4 to 1/2 of fluid needs in 1st 2 hrs to correct blood pressure
    - If shock or hypoalbuminemia – use colloids at 10-20 ml/kg IV
  - **After first 2 hours**
    - Give rest of fluid allotment over next 10 hours
    - Check Hct, TP, K+, glucose, Warm patient on heating pad if needed
  - 2-3 hours- **Metoclopramide CRI, Pain control** (buprenorphine), **Amikacin/gent** if BP improved
  - Approximately 4-5 hours **Start to feed**

**Prognosis:** Good with above described treatment (**93-95% success rate**), otherwise 68-92% reported

**Prevention:**
- Vaccination- **modified-live** vaccine at 6-8 wk, 10-12 wk, & 14-16 wk, booster at 1 yr, then every 3 yrs
- Disinfectants: virus extremely resistant. Use bleach diluted 1:32 or quaternary ammonium cleaners

**Pearls:** Fecal viral shedding begins 4-5 days after exposure, **BEFORE** onset clin. sx.

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**Classic Question(s)**

Why perform fecal flotation testing and abdominal radiographs on a suspected parvo dog? What findings would you expect on a complete blood cell count from a parvo puppy?

Describe the acute treatment of suspected parvo in the first 12 hours after admission.

List 3 key preventive measures control parvovirus in dogs and in an animal hospital. Name 2 risk factors for parvovirus infection in dogs. Which breeds are most at risk?