Cranial Cruciate Ligament Disease
Condensed Version

Presentation:
- Acute or progressive onset, usually large breeds dogs.
- Variable pelvic limb lameness – unilateral or bilateral
  - Holds up affected limb or does not bear weight while standing
  - Stifle is externally rotated; increased flexion when walking
- Joint effusion and thickening of joint capsule
- ± Cranial drawer sign, cranial tibial thrust, or meniscal click

Test of choice:
- Physical examination
- Radiography: Fat pad compression, effusion, DJD
  - Useful for measuring tibial plateau angle for surgical planning

Rx of choice:
- Medical treatment with or without surgical stabilization
  - Physical rehab, NSAIDs
  - Disease-modifying osteoarthritis agents (polysulfated glycosaminoglycan, pentosan polysulfate, glucosamine, chondroitin sulfate)
- Surgical stabilization – many options
  - Intracapsular fascia lata or patellar tendon autogenous graft
  - Extracapsular suture stabilization (femoral condyle or fabella to tibia)
  - Fibular head transposition – advances insertion of lateral collateral ligament
  - Tibial plateau leveling osteotomy (TPLO) – changes tibial plateau angle from 20°-26° to 5°-10°
  - Tibial tuberosity advancement (TTA)
  - ± Complete or partial medial meniscectomy – medial meniscus should always be inspected

Prognosis:
- Conservative management only
  - Dogs and cats under 10 kg: 50% will do well; Dogs over 10 kg: 20% will do well
- Surgical management: 85% of all sizes will do well regardless of chronicity before surgery
- Injury of contralateral ligament occurs in 40% of patients.
  - This increases to 60% if radiographic changes evident in uninjured leg.

Classic Question(s)

Name 3 physical exam findings that are highly suggestive of a ruptured cranial cruciate ligament.

Name three the radiographic findings with a torn cranial cruciate ligament.

Describe five surgical techniques for the treatment of a torn cranial cruciate ligament.

What should an owner be told when their 90 pound German Shepherd is diagnosed with cranial cruciate ligament injury in the left hind leg?