

SURGICAL IRRIGATION OF THE BLADDER

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Proc. 34th AAHA Meeting (NY) : 109-111, 1967

Surgical irrigation of the bladder of cats during a cystotomy better ensures removing all urinary calculi. Thus it prevents the inflammation, thickened fibrous bladder wall and loss of muscle tone, failure to completely empty the bladder of urine which becomes alkaline and irritating, and hemorrhage and further irritation, all of which may be produced by any remaining calculi. The procedure involves making a small incision in the urinary bladder and removing the urine. Then the entire bladder is scraped out with a blunt-edged gallbladder scoop. The urethra is unblocked by flushing the contents into the bladder, using a 2- or 3-ml syringe and a blunt cannula. Using a 2-way valve, a plastic inseminating tube and a 20-ml syringe, the bladder is washed (and pumped out) with 500 ml Ringer's solution. A cold (35 to 40 F) solution is used to cause the stretched muscles to contract and make the bladder smaller.

The bladder is closed after all hemorrhage inside it is checked, and 2 or 3 ml of a light ointment is injected. Chloromycetin (preferably) or Furadantin is administered for about a month, and a urine acidifier (DL-methioine) is given, often for the life of the cat. The method is not 100% successful in preventing recurrences but certainly reduces the high percentage of recurrences in cases where other treatments are used and where not all calculi are removed.