



ONCOLOGY SERVICE

2407 River Drive, C247 Veterinary Teaching Hospital
Knoxville, TN 37996-4544
Phone: 865-974-8387 Fax: 865-974-5213

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Dr. Robert C. DeNovo

Anesthesia
Dr. Ralph Harvey
Dr. Christine Egger

Cardiology
Dr. Becky Gompf
Dr. Timothy Becker

Dermatology
Dr. Linda Frank
Dr. Keith Hnilica

**Emergency Medicine
& Critical Care**
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Dr. D.J. Krahwinkel
Dr. Karen Tobias

July 5, 2005

Thank you for supporting The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine Veterinary Teaching Hospital. In order to improve the quality of information that we provide for those practitioners requesting oncology consultations, we have devised a new FAX-based consultation system. This method will replace telephone consultations in order to provide accurate and efficient information from which patient management decisions can be made.

Oncology consultation requests now can be made by filling out the information on a consultation request form. Pertinent laboratory results and biopsy results can be directly sent with the request form. This form includes a box to indicate whether you are interested in a referral. All information should be faxed to (865) 974-5213. After review by the attending oncology clinician(s), a reply will be faxed back to you within 24-48 hours. The completed consultation form will be kept on file here at UTCVM for 1 month to facilitate referral appointments. Please note that routine referrals can still be made directly by calling (865) 974-8387 for appointment scheduling.

Enclosed please find blank oncology consultation request forms for your use. A sample consultation reply is also enclosed for your reference. This form can also be downloaded from our website: www.vet.utk.edu under "Features".

For oncology emergencies, please call (865) 974-8387 and ask for the oncology technician. The call will be directed to the technician or to a voicemail box that is regularly checked for client and veterinarian calls. If you have an urgent situation and cannot immediately reach the oncology service, please ask to speak to the emergency service.

Thank you again for your referrals to the UTCVM VTH. We hope to continue to streamline our protocols and strengthen our working relationship with regional practitioners and pet owners. Please feel free to contact VTH Client Services if you have any questions about this new process.

Small Animal Clinical Oncology Service

Dr. Al Legendre
Dr. Amy LeBlanc
Dr. Carlos Souza
Dr. Jeff Phillips
Dr. William H. Adams

Client Services, Veterinary Teaching Hospital
Nan Lillard, MA, Manager



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Date:

To:

Fax #: ()

Page: 1 of 3

RE: Consultation/ Referral form and process

FROM: UT Veterinary Teaching Hospital Oncology Service

You have received this fax because you either would like a consultation or you would like to refer a case to the Oncology service.

- Please complete the attached form and return it with the biopsy/cytology report to (865) 974-5213.
- Incoming forms are reviewed and emergency situations are expedited.
- Please allow 1 to 2 business days for a reply for non-emergent cases
- Recommendations for further staging, treatment and estimated costs will be provided in the oncologist's response.
- If you have any questions regarding the report, please feel free to call and an oncologist will call you back as soon as possible.
- Once you have received our response, please review it with your client.
- After reviewing the report with your client, please have them call for an appointment at the number above.



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Check here to refer this case. The client may call for an appointment once consult has been returned to you and you have discussed our recommendations with the client. This communication will be kept on file at UTCVM for 1 month.

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Veterinarian: Dr. _____ **Clinic Name:** _____

Phone: (____) _____ **Fax:** (____) _____

Name of Owner: _____ **Name of Animal:** _____

Species: ___ Dog ___ Cat **Color:** _____ **Rabies VACC date:** _____

Breed: _____ **Age/DOB:** _____ **Sex:** M M/C F F/S **Weight:** _____

Diagnosis: Please **fax** biopsy or cytology report
(Recommendations are best made with a biopsy confirmed diagnosis)

Pertinent Cancer History: (Include tumor location, size, duration, etc.)

Tumor location: _____ **Tumor size:** _____

Is there measurable gross tumor still present? (Please circle one) Yes No

Please indicate diagnostic tests already performed and attach results:
(Please do not fax entire medical record)

CBC Cytology: _____ Chemistry Profile

Regional Lymph Node Evaluation UA Bone Marrow Aspirate

Biopsy: (please fax bx report) Thoracic Radiographs Date: _____

Other Blood Tests: _____ CT Scan/ Ultrasound Date: _____

Current drug therapy and/or response to previous medications:

Other pertinent medical history:

Questions you would like addressed:



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FAX Consultation Sheet

Veterinarian: Dr. John Doe

Phone: (865)555-5555

Name of Owner: John Smith

Consultation Date: April 15, 2005

Diagnosis: Incompletely excised low grade hemangiopericytoma of the dorsal lumbar skin

Clinic Name: John Doe Animal Hospital

Fax: (865)555-5555

Name of Animal: Jack

Signalment: 12 yr M/C Canine Lab Retriever

___ Slide review is indicated if referral to UTCVM. Please see attached information to send slides to UT-CVM

Additional Staging Recommended:

CBC, Chemistry Profile

UA

Three-view Thoracic Radiographs

Regional Lymph Node Evaluation

Radiographs of: abdomen

Bone Marrow Aspirate

CT Scan of: lumbar region for RT planning

Ultrasound of Abdomen

Estimated total cost for appointment and staging at UTCVM: Consultation appointment \$85; plus diagnostic tests listed above (CT scan: \$500; labwork, radiographs, ultrasound: \$350-400)

Treatment Recommendations: A hemangiopericytoma is a type of soft tissue sarcoma comprised of malignant mesenchymal cells. Tumors are solitary and found in the skin/SQ tissues of the torso, extremities, or head. Soft tissue sarcomas are locally invasive, and have the potential to metastasize. A grading scheme has been developed for soft tissue sarcomas that helps to predict whether a tumor may be more likely to spread. A low grade tumor such as this would be associated with low (10-15% risk) of metastasis. Prior to treatment, we recommend staging with minimum data base, lymph node aspiration cytology and 3-view thoracic radiographs (and abdominal radiographs with ultrasound for tumors in the caudal half of the body). There are two main treatment options for this tumor:

- **Surgery + radiation therapy:** Radiation therapy consists of 24 daily treatments given on a Monday through Friday schedule. Each radiation therapy session requires light general anesthesia. Potential side effects of radiation include an early, reversible reaction in rapidly dividing tissues (in this pet: skin and hair follicles) that develops midway through treatment, is generally mild to moderate in severity, and last 2-4 weeks before healing. During this time, patients are treated with antibiotics, analgesic medications, and topical burn cream as needed. There is also the potential, though unlikely, for late irreversible side effects to slowly dividing tissues (bone, muscle, spinal cord, nerves). Cost of radiation therapy is approximately \$3500-4000. You have indicated that there is grossly palpable disease present in this pet. Radiation therapy is best used in the microscopic disease setting. Therefore, additional surgery is needed and would cost approximately \$1000-1500. The decision to do surgery before or after radiation is based on evaluation of the pet, CT scan, and consultation with the soft tissue surgeons and radiation oncologist. With the combination of surgery and radiation therapy, we generally have a 70-80% chance of long-term tumor control (e.g. 2-5 years)
- **Surgery alone:** If radiation not feasible for dog and/or owner, a CT scan will predict to some extent the success of a second surgery as sole treatment. The majority of soft tissue sarcomas on the trunk or head are not controlled long term with surgery alone due to the invasive nature of these tumors.



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FAX Consultation Sheet

Estimated total cost for treatment at UTCVM:

Surgery + radiation therapy \$4500-5500; Surgery alone: \$1000-1500

This information is considered privileged medical advice and does not create a Veterinarian-Client-Patient relationship with UTCVM. Listed treatment options are general recommendations based solely on the information provided by you and pertain to the above-named pet only. These treatment recommendations and cost estimates are subject to change should the animal be referred to UTCVM.

If this consultation does not provide the necessary information, please let us know. Please have the owner call the appointment desk at (865) 974-5664 or 974-8387 if they wish to make an appointment.

Additional References:

1. Withrow SJ and MacEwen EG. Small Animal Clinical Oncology (2000) W. B Saunders Company ISBN 072167755X
2. Morrison WB. Cancer in Dogs and Cats: Medical and Surgical Management (1998) Williams and Wilkins ISBN 0683061054
3. Ogilvie GK and Moore AS. Managing the Veterinary Cancer Patient: A Practice Manual (1995) Veterinary Learning Systems ISBN 1884254209

Name of Consultant: Dr. Amy LeBlanc, Diplomate ACVIM (Oncology)

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