

# Total Ear Canal Ablation (TECA)



10/2017

10/2017

10/2017

# Total Ear Canal Ablation (TECA)

## What is a TECA?

A total ear canal ablation, or TECA, is the surgical removal of the ear canals (tubes) which make up most of the 'outer ear'. This is usually combined with a procedure to allow surgical access into the 'middle ear' chamber in order to 'clean' it.

## Why would a TECA be advised for my dog/cat?

TECA is a salvage surgery. This means that it is a procedure that is performed after other (usually medical) attempts to control an ear problem have failed. Examples include severe/end-stage or drug-resistant infections of the ear and tumours affecting the ear canals.

The main aim of a TECA is to improve the day-to-day comfort and quality of life of the patient.

## What workup is required before a TECA is performed?

In some patients the only workup that is needed is examination of the ear canals (under sedation/general anaesthesia) in combination with a detailed medical history.

For patients with more complex problems, such as clinical signs of middle or inner ear disease or those with tumours, advanced imaging of the head (CT or MRI scanning) may be advised prior to any surgery. We are fortunate at Wear Referrals to have on-site CT and MRI scanners in our hospital.

## How successful is surgery?

Surgery is normally very successful in relieving the pain associated with severe or chronic ear disease and the vast majority of owners report a significant improvement in their pet's daily quality of life after surgery.

## Are there any risks with surgery?

Our experienced soft tissue surgeons will discuss the potential risks of surgery with you in the initial surgical consultation.

Major complications are uncommon but can include bleeding, permanent nerve injury and deep infection. Minor complications can include temporary nerve injury, swelling or infection of the surgical site and loss of hearing after surgery (though by the time of surgery is needed this has often already been lost).

## How long will my pet stay in hospital after surgery?

Patients will normally be home again within 24-48 hours after surgery, once they are comfortable and fully recovered from anaesthesia.

### **Is there any follow-up after surgery?**

A follow-up consultation will usually take place at around two weeks after surgery.

If there are no concerns, long-term follow-up is not required.

### **How much does surgery cost?**

Estimated costs for referral consultation, general anaesthesia, one-side TECA, inpatient care, medications and post-operative care are usually in the region of £2,000-2,500.

This excludes the cost of any advanced imaging, if needed.

The surgeon will discuss options and estimated costs with you during the initial consultation.

### **I have further questions, what should I do?**

If you have already had an appointment with a soft tissue surgeon at Wear Referrals, please contact us on 01388 777770 or email the surgeon using the email address provided on their business card.

If we have not seen your pet yet, please feel free to ask any questions you may have during the initial consultation.

If your pet has had surgery and you have urgent questions or concerns, we are contactable 24/7 on 01388 777770.