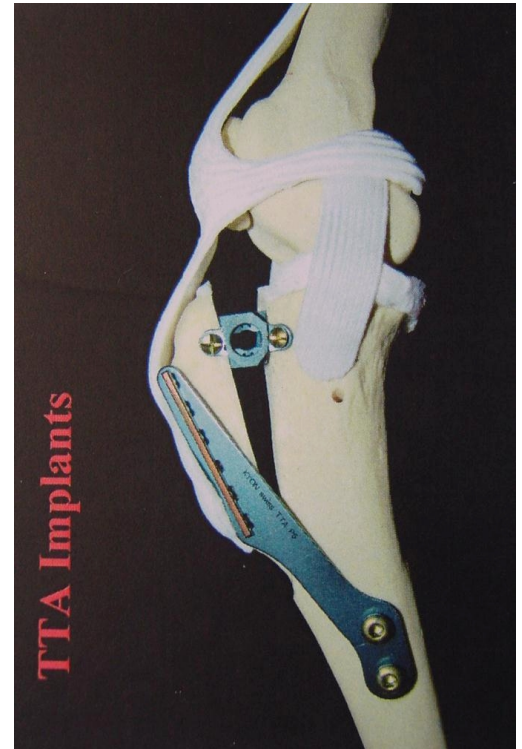
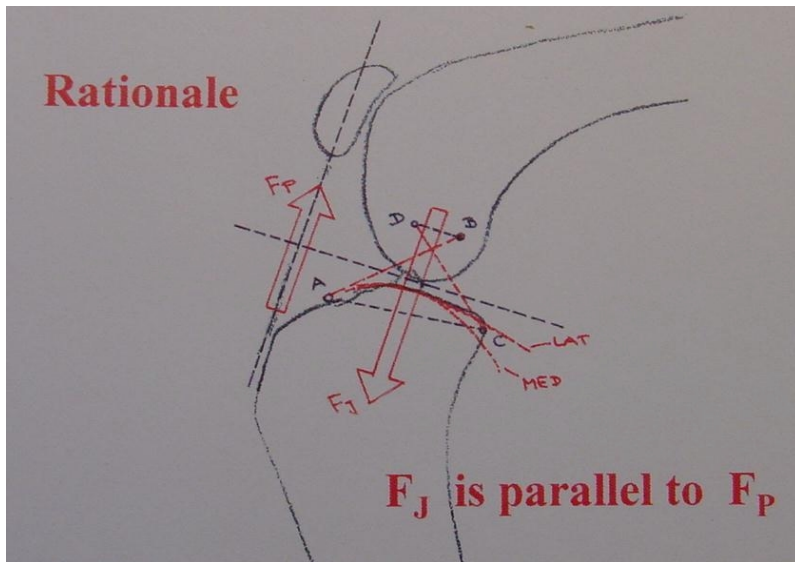


ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT TIBIAL TUBEROSITY ADVANCEMENT (TTA) FOR



CRANIAL CRUCIATE LIGAMENT DISEASE/ INJURY

WHAT IS A TIBIAL TUBEROSITY ADVANCEMENT?

Tibial tuberosity advancement is a surgical procedure designed for the treatment of cranial cruciate ligament disease in the dog. It involves cutting the tibial tuberosity and advancing it forward so that the patella tendon is parallel to the slope of the tibial plateau. This prevents the abnormal sliding motion of the joint which occurs after the ligament has been damaged. This surgical procedure relieves the pressure on the injured cranial cruciate ligament, stabilises the joint motion and therefore, reduces the inflammation in the joint and slows the progression of arthritis.

HOW DO I DETERMINE IF MY DOG IS A CANDIDATE FOR A TTA?

TTA is indicated for dogs over about 20 kgs. Your veterinarian will have discussed the diagnosis of ruptured cranial cruciate ligament with you. Radiographs of the stifle (knee joint) and the tibia need to be performed so we can assess the joint and measure the joint angles. Some dogs will have an abnormal angle of the tibia as a result of an accident or a congenital deformity but this is uncommon. All dogs benefit from the advancement procedure.



HOW LONG WILL MY DOG BE IN HOSPITAL?

Most dogs are in hospital for 3 days.

WHAT IS THE POST OPERATIVE CARE FOR MY DOG?

Your dog will need a graded exercise program for the 3 months it takes to fully recover from the surgery and the cruciate ligament disease. This program will be discussed in detail after the surgery and you will be provided with written instructions. It is important for you to understand that you have to confine your dog to a pen or one room of the house for the first 10 days at home. The dogs can then have a little more free movement but they are not allowed to run or play for 2 months.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE MY ANIMAL TO RECOVER and DO I NEED MORE RADIOGRAPHS?

It will take about 3 months for your dog to recover so that he/she can resume running and playing. Radiographs are performed at 2 months to ensure that bone healing has occurred and your dog is ready to return to normal activity.

WILL MY DOG RETURN TO NORMAL?

Most dogs will have excellent function of the limb after surgery but this is in part dependent on the degree of arthritis that is in the knee prior to surgery.

WHAT ARE THE COMPLICATIONS?

Infection is uncommon. Swelling and bleeding may occur as with all orthopaedic procedures. The movement of plates and screws can occur, particularly if dogs are too active too early. This may necessitate a second surgery or it may delay healing of the bone.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

The average cost is approximately \$4000 including the consultation. The costs of preoperative radiographs is included in this cost.