



Australian and New Zealand College of  
Veterinary Scientists

**Small Animal Surgery**  
**Sample Multiple Choice Questions**

## Answer all multiple choice questions in this section

---

Each question is worth one (1) mark. There is no negative marking.

1. Which of the following is used to definitively diagnose degenerative myelopathy?
  - a. History and physical examination findings
  - b. Biopsy and histopathology
  - c. Magnetic resonance imaging findings
  - d. Genetic testing
  
2. A dog is presented with abdominal pain and suspected septic peritonitis. Peritoneal fluid analysis reveals increased protein, increased nucleated cells, and decreased glucose compared to blood, but no bacteria are identified.

Which of the following is the MOST appropriate interpretation?

- a. Septic peritonitis is confirmed based on these findings alone
  - b. Septic peritonitis is unlikely based on these findings alone
  - c. Findings are suggestive but not specific for septic peritonitis
  - d. Cytology is not useful in diagnosing septic peritonitis
  
3. A 2-year-old French bulldog undergoes folded flap palatoplasty (FFP) as part of multilevel BOAS surgery. At 3-month follow-up, CT imaging is performed.

Which of the following is the MOST likely finding regarding the soft palate thickness?

- a. Marked reduction in soft palate thickness
  - b. No consistent reduction in soft palate thickness
  - c. Complete normalisation of soft palate dimensions
  - d. Greater reduction in thickness compared to standard staphylectomy

4. A dog is undergoing preoperative planning for hepatic mass resection. Computed tomography shows the mass is located in close proximity to the caudal vena cava (CVC). Increasing distance between the mass and the CVC is associated with an odds ratio of 0.666 for postoperative complications per 0.1 cm/kg increase.

Which of the following is the MOST appropriate interpretation when counselling the owner?

- a. Increasing distance from the CVC is associated with reduced risk of postoperative complications
  - b. Increasing distance from the CVC is associated with elimination of postoperative complication risk
  - c. Increasing distance from the CVC is not associated with meaningful change in complication risk
  - d. Increasing distance from the CVC is not relevant when complete surgical excision is achieved
5. A cat is presented with elbow luxation. On assessment, only one collateral ligament appears disrupted.

Which of the following is the MOST appropriate interpretation?

- a. Luxation cannot occur with a single collateral ligament injury
  - b. The contralateral collateral ligament must also be ruptured
  - c. Concurrent olecranon ligament injury should be suspected
  - d. The joint capsule is the primary stabiliser in this scenario
6. Which of the following is the most appropriate justification for using barbed sutures rather than stapling in thoracoscopic lung lobectomy of small dogs?
- a. Barbed sutures provide superior sealing compared to stapling devices
  - b. Barbed sutures provide inferior sealing compared to traditional sutures
  - c. Barbed sutures provide comparable sealing with improved technical efficiency
  - d. Increasing Barbed sutures eliminate the risk of postoperative air leakage

7. A dog with metastatic cutaneous mast cell tumour is undergoing staging lymphadenectomy. Three lymph node sites are being considered: axillary, medial retropharyngeal, and ilio-sacral.

Which of the procedures is associated with the HIGHEST overall complication rate?

- a. Axillary lymphadenectomy
  - b. Medial retropharyngeal lymphadenectomy
  - c. Ilio-sacral lymphadenectomy
  - d. All have similar complication rates
8. A 10-year-old dog undergoes lung lobectomy for a solitary primary pulmonary carcinoma. Histopathology confirms complete excision. Thoracic CT shows no distant metastasis.

Which factor is MOST strongly associated with reduced survival following surgery?

- a. Tumour diameter <5 cm
  - b. Tumour diameter  $\geq$ 5 cm
  - c. Completeness of surgical margins
  - d. Use of adjuvant chemotherapy
9. A 9-year-old dog undergoes enterectomy for a linear foreign body. The surgeon is considering postoperative analgesia.

Which of the following is the MOST appropriate recommendation regarding NSAID use?

- a. NSAIDs should be avoided due to increased risk of intestinal dehiscence
- b. NSAIDs may be used as part of multimodal analgesia with case selection
- c. NSAIDs should be prioritized due to reduction in postoperative ileus
- d. NSAIDs are contraindicated following all intestinal surgical procedures

**10.** A dog undergoes dorsal laminectomy for congenital thoracic vertebral malformation. Neurological status worsens within 24 hours postoperatively.

Which of the following is the MOST accurate interpretation?

- a. This is uncommon and suggests surgical error
- b. This is expected due to decompression-related swelling
- c. This is common and may reflect underlying instability
- d. This indicates permanent spinal cord damage