

Cystocentesis in cats

A guide for veterinary professionals



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Step 1: preparation



- Equipment required
 - 5 or 10 ml syringe
 - 23 g one inch needle
 - Sterile container

Step 2: palpate the bladder



Step 3

- Samples can be collected with the cat in any position:
 - Standing
 - Lateral recumbency
 - Dorsal recumbency
- All you need is a calm cat whose bladder you can feel
- Sometimes it helps to have two assistants: one at each end of the cat gently restraining it and trying to keep it as calm and relaxed as possible
 - For example if lying the cat on his back, have a deep bed underneath to make the procedure as comfortable as possible

Step 4: collect the sample

- There is no need to clip the fur
- Attach the needle to the syringe and remove the needle guard
- Stabilise the bladder using your free hand (the hand that will not be holding the syringe). Once happy, pick up the syringe with your other hand.
- Place the needle on the skin (so that the cat can feel it) then gently pass it through the skin and into the bladder
- Aspirate your sample
- Release your hold on the bladder
- Withdraw the needle
- Empty the sample into a sterile container

Standing cystocentesis



Use the left hand to stabilise the bladder if you are right-handed

Picture included with kind permission of Professor Daniëlle Gunn-Moore, University of Edinburgh

Dorsal recumbency cystocentesis



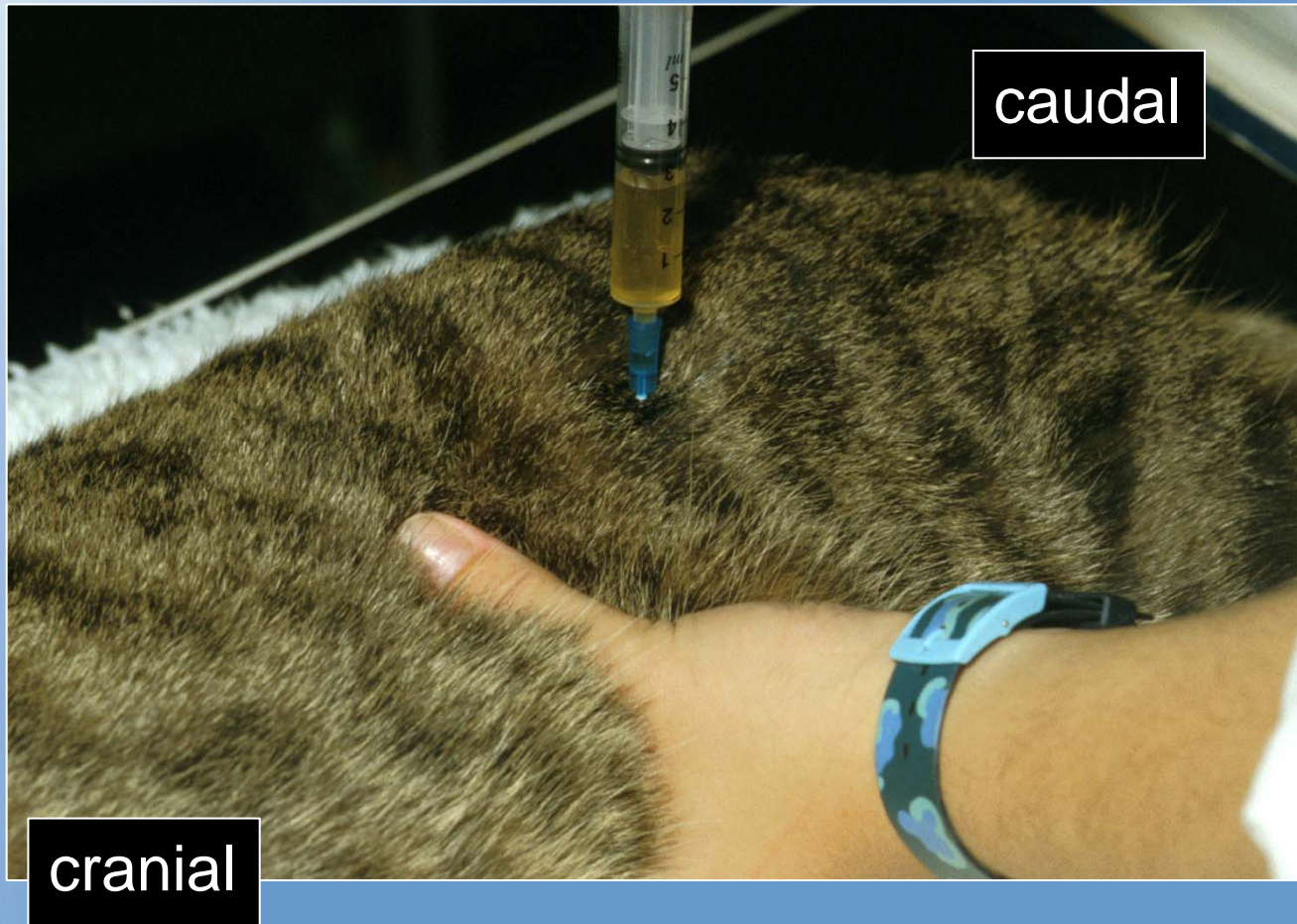
The bladder is stabilised between the left hand and the bones of the pelvis

caudal

cranial

This cat is anaesthetised and therefore very relaxed

Lateral recumbency cystocentesis



The bladder is stabilised using the left hand (thumb in front of the bladder, fingers gently raising the bladder)

This cat is anaesthetised and therefore very relaxed

Ultrasound guidance

- If the bladder is not palpable or is very small, ultrasound guidance can make cystocentesis possible.
- In many cases, no clipping of fur is needed. After applying some surgical spirit, ultrasound gel is applied to the coat and the bladder is imaged.

Contraindications and potential adverse effects

- Cystocentesis is generally a safe and well tolerated procedure
- Adverse effects are rare and include
 - Bruising, haemorrhage, urine leakage and bladder rupture are potential complications in blocked cats (cats with urethral obstruction)
 - Vagal stimulation can cause transient side-effects (retching, panting, collapse) – affected cats recover spontaneously within a few minutes. This is very rare!

Conclusions

- Cystocentesis is generally a safe and well tolerated procedure
- It should not be a painful or stressful experience for the patient
- Cystocentesis should not require sedation or anaesthesia of the patient (unless very fractious)
- It is the ideal way of obtaining a sterile urine sample from a cat



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