Complications

Complications of gastrointestinal surgery include shock, leakage, ileus, hemorrhage, perforation, peritonitis, stenosis, short bowel syndrome, recurrence, dehiscence and death. Small intestine dehiscence rates are 7 percent to 16 percent with significant mortality rates. Give all clients detailed discharge instructions and discuss the Pet’s care with them in person, telling them to call you at the first sign of problems.Persistent vomiting, fever and leukocytosis in the presence of abdominal tenderness may indicate peritonitis resulting from enterotomy leakage. Abdominocentesis and lavage should be performed in these cases. If toxic neutrophils with engulfed bacteria or free peritoneal bacteria are present, early re-exploration of the abdomen is warranted and further resection and reanastomosis may be required.The most common time frame for leakage or dehiscence is within two to seven days after surgery. Clients need to monitor the Pet for vomiting and lethargy; bowel movements should resume within 24 hours once vomiting has ceased and the Pet is able to eat. Any vomiting should be immediately