

WHAT IS HEMANGIOSARCOMA?

Hemangiosarcoma is a cancer of the endothelial cells (cells that line the inside of blood vessels). The most common sites for this tumor include the spleen, the liver, the right atrium of the heart, and the lungs, though it has also been reported in other areas as well. Unfortunately, since this is a tumor of the blood vessels, by the time it is diagnosed it has likely already begun spreading throughout the body into the blood stream even if we do not see gross evidence of metastasis during surgery or on radiographs or ultrasound. To determine if there is evidence of spread, we recommend chest radiographs, abdominal ultrasound, and possibly echocardiogram (an ultrasound of the heart).

WHAT IS THE RECOMMENDED TREATMENT?

If possible, surgical removal of the mass is recommended as the first line of treatment. VSNT also recommends chemotherapy to treat patients against the spread of cancer. *Doxorubicin* is currently the standard of care for treatment of cancer spread. Dogs tend to tolerate chemotherapy better compared to humans. The second option for chemotherapeutic treatment is metronomic or low dose chemotherapy. We will always recommend continuing to monitor your patient's progress with chest radiographs and abdominal ultrasound. At VSNT, we also discuss additional therapies currently in clinical trials that are assessible for treatment.