



RESEARCH REGARDING THE INCIDENCE AND DIAGNOSIS OF CHRONIC PANCREATITIS IN DOGS

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• Introduction

Chronic pancreatitis in dogs is defined by persistent or recurrent pancreatic inflammation leading to progressive destruction of the acinar and ductal tissue, with replacement by fibrous connective tissue (1,2).

• Material and method

This retrospective observational study included 101 dogs diagnosed with chronic pancreatitis and examined at Agervet Clinic during the 2021–2024 study period. The affected population comprised 44 males and 57 females, aged between 2.5 months and 17 years.

• Results and discussions

Etiological assessment indicated that dietary factors accounted for the majority of cases (79.4%). These included high-fat foods, low-quality diets, and spoiled food, all of which likely contributed to pancreatic overstimulation and chronic inflammatory injury. Toxic factors represented 8.8% of cases and included insecticides, herbicides, medications, and household detergents. Parasitic causes, mainly babesiosis, accounted for 5.9%, whereas traumatic causes represented 4.9%, including road traffic accidents, surgery, and accidental gunshot pellet injuries.

Diagnosis was established through clinical examination, paraclinical investigations, abdominal ultrasonography, radiography, and SNAP cPL IDEXX testing. Ultrasonography revealed decreased pancreatic echogenicity in necrotic areas and increased echogenicity associated with fibrosis and atrophy in 25 cases. Associated hepatic duct dilation was observed in 15 cases and gallbladder changes in 8 cases. Of 75 SNAP cPL tests performed, 45 were positive. Clinical outcome showed recovery in 80 dogs, although 32 required long-term enzyme supplementation and dietary management, while 21 died.

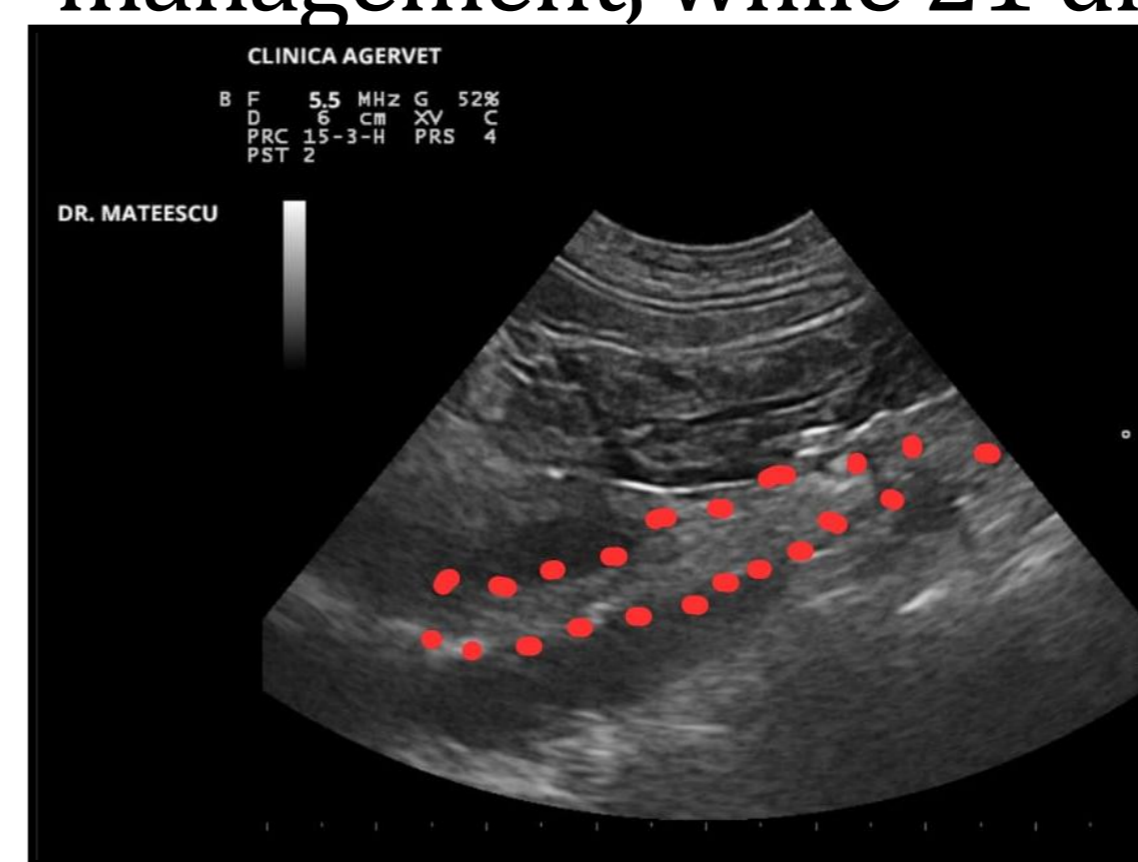


Fig.2. Abdominal ultrasound with hypoechoic and hyperechoic areas

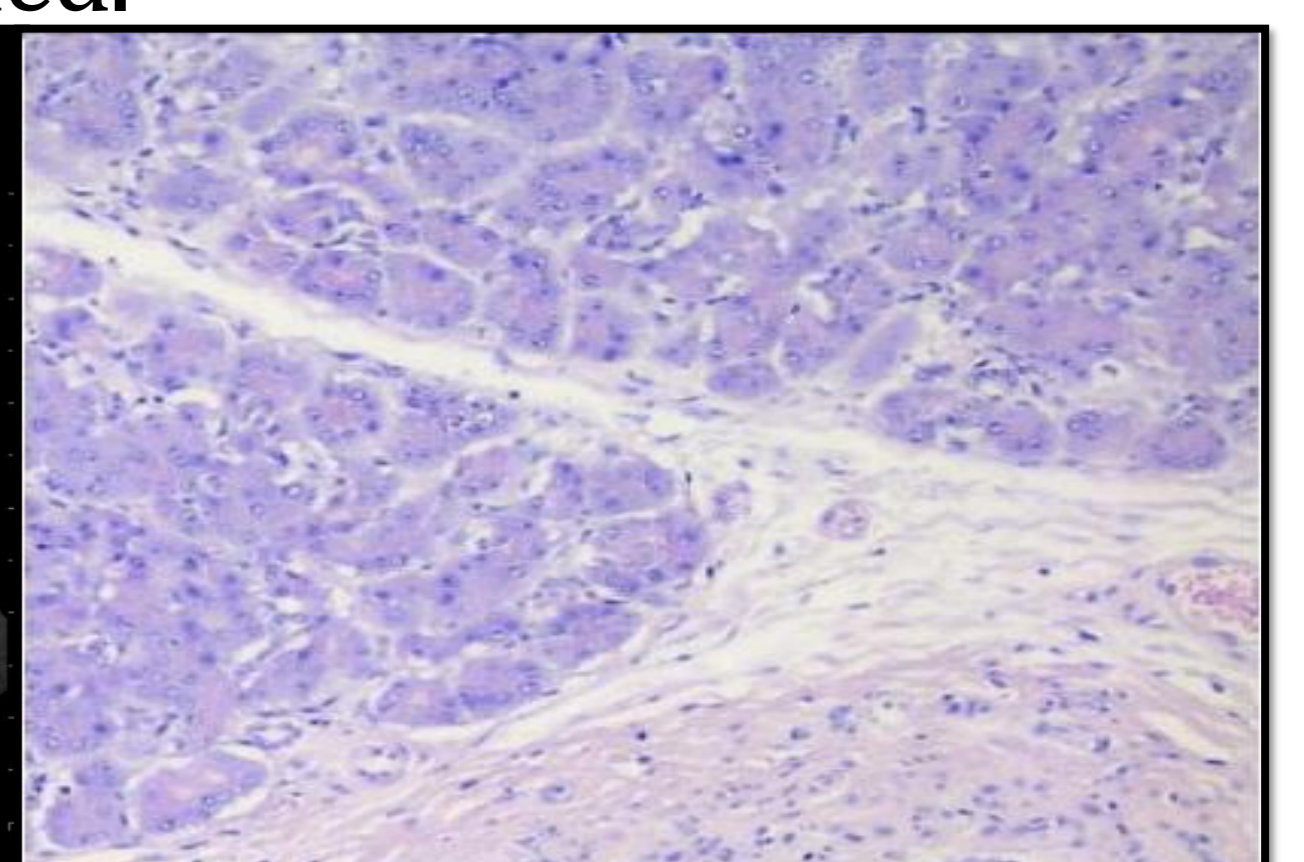


Fig.3. Chronic pancreatitis histopathological injuries, acinar and canalicular atrophy and fibrosis

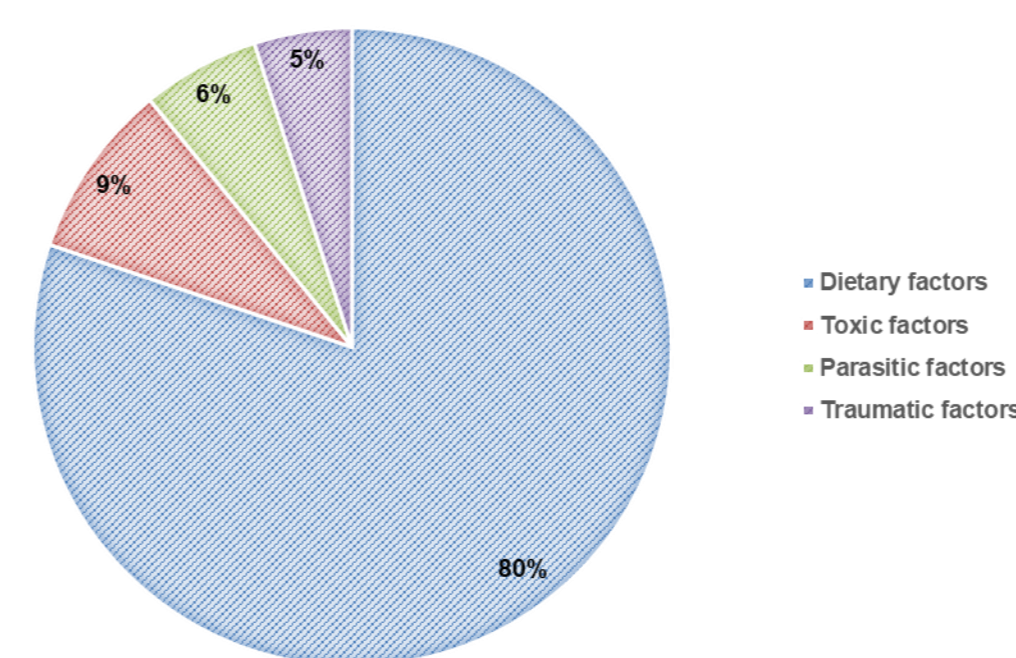


Fig.4. Etiology of chronic pancreatitis - 101 cases, 2021-2024



Fig.5. SNAP cPL IDEXX test - positive

Table 1
Incidence of chronic pancreatic disorders 2021–2024

Year	Chronic pancreatitis		AGE
	No dogs/gender		
	M	F	
2021	10	15	8 months - 12 years
2022	14	25	6 months - 17 years
2023	9	7	2.5 months - 12 years
2024	11	10	2.5 months - 17 years
Total	44	57	2.5 months - 17 years



Fig.1. Clinical appearance of the dog with chronic pancreatitis

• Conclusions

Chronic pancreatitis in dogs requires an integrated diagnostic approach based on clinical, paraclinical, and imaging findings. Abdominal ultrasonography proved particularly useful for identifying pancreatic and associated hepatobiliary changes, while SNAP cPL provided supportive diagnostic value. Although most dogs showed favorable clinical evolution, a considerable proportion required long-term dietary and enzymatic management, highlighting the chronic and progressive nature of the disease.