

Medial Patella Luxation does not have to Start with Surgery

Medial patella luxation is a common presentation of small dogs. There are four grades of severity with this condition and while it is often just an annoying skip in a faster gait for the grade one patella luxation, the grade 4 dogs have patellas that are permanently luxated. The pathogenesis of this condition will be presented. As with many conditions, there are genetic and environmental factors that influence the presentation of medial patella luxation.

The biomechanics of patella luxation have consequences beyond the stifle and there are well defined patterns that affect the rest of the body. The balance between hip extensors and flexors, adductors and abductors will be affected as will the range of motion of the lumbar vertebrae and pelvis. An imbalance in muscle tension often extends to the thoracolumbar junction. It is not uncommon to find that these dogs have some degree for back pathology and pain. Rebalancing the patellas may potentially prevent disc ruptures or bulges in the lumbar region.

Acupuncture can be a useful tool to help correct these imbalances. Biomechanical treatment options including rehabilitation concepts and ideas will also be presented.