

The Chronic Vomiting Dog (by Dr Robert D C Miller)

Dogs and cats can chronically vomit for many reasons.

When the vet is presented with a chronic vomiting patient they take into account its history and clinical status in order to decide upon their initial approach.

The chronic vomiter invariably needs a good work up to identify the cause.

The flow chart below (taken from Ettinger et al) shows the complexity of investigating the chronic vomiter.

We use our best judgment to short cut an investigation and choose the tests we feel will result in a diagnosis soonest, but sometimes many tests are required, and many can be negative. For this reason it is difficult to give an estimate of total costs of an investigation. The best we can do is continually update a client on current charges, and costs of subsequent tests. Until we know what is wrong we cannot tell you what the appropriate treatment will be.

Sometimes it can be very frustrating for clients as they see charges mount and apparently no headway being made. But patience and understanding are required. Our goal is always to reach a timely diagnosis, avoid unnecessary charges and commence specific treatment as soon as possible.

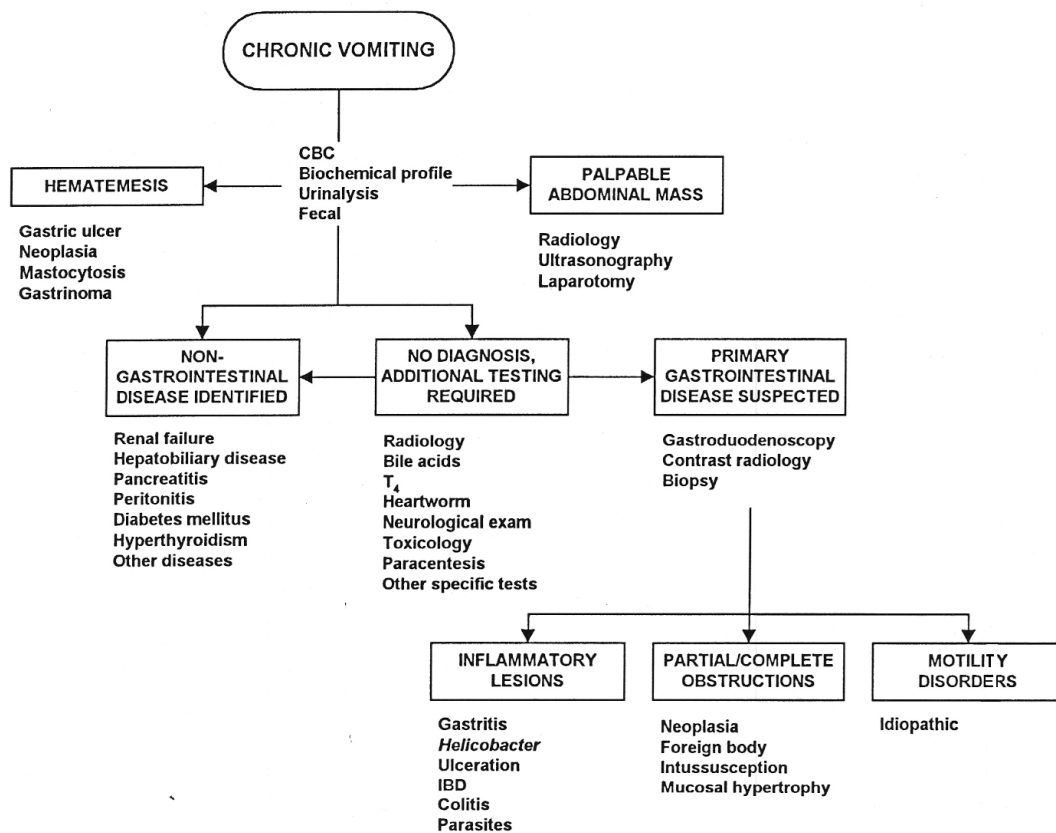


Figure 34-3. Algorithm for the diagnosis of chronic vomiting.