

Dr. Cary Craig from UC Davis suggests the acceptable medications for CH cats:

- ✓ *Dormitor/Antisedan* → is a sedative/analgesic that can provide profound sedation & short-term analgesia. It is reversible with Antisedan which makes it extremely useful for short procedures. Not recommended for spays (or any abdominal surgeries) but can be acceptable in castration of young, otherwise healthy animals.

Other Important Points

- Incidence of cats that aren't ill dying while anesthetized have been found to be about 0.3% (175 out of 80,000).
- **Regardless of an animal's neurologic state, hereditary traits etc., procedures are successful when veterinary professionals have experience with particular anesthetic drugs being used, experience and skill with endotracheal intubation and vigilant monitoring during anesthesia as well as proper monitoring during the recovery stage.**

This information has been provided to you by:

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Understanding Cerebellar Hypoplasia

Bifford for President is simply a group ran by "special needs pet parents" and simply an informal educational site. If you have any concerns regarding your pet's health, condition, anesthesia concerns please consult your veterinarian/veterinary facility!

Bifford for President simply provides various information, educational resources or materials but the best avenue to **always** take is speaking directly with your veterinarian/veterinary facility.

We **DO NOT** dispense medical advice, treatment/care options or advice just simply provide a collection of data/research to help pet parents make an educated decision for their pets.

We take absolutely **NO** responsibility for any outcome of your pet's health, diagnostics, procedures or overall care.

**AS ALWAYS,
CONSULT WITH YOUR
VETERINARIAN!**

What IS "CH"?

*Cerebellar Hypoplasia is a neurological disorder that occurs when the cerebellum (responsible for fine motor skills, coordination, and spatial awareness) did not develop properly in the womb. It is **NOT** contagious; they are not in any pain or suffering nor does it worsen over time.*

CH occurs from various reasons: pregnant queens suffering from malnutrition or abuse but the main reason is pregnant queens having panleukopenia (or were vaccinated with the FVRCP modified live virus) in which the virus then attacks the developing cerebellum of the unborn kittens.

CH can affect the entire litter or just one kitten and can range from mild to severe symptoms.

Typical symptoms include:

- ✓ Jerky/Uncoordinated Walking
- ✓ Swaying Side-to-Side
- ✓ Goose Stepping gait or "hypermatia"
- ✓ Head Tremors and/or Intention Tremors

CH cannot be detected by routine laboratory/diagnostic testing but in some cases an MRI may show that the kitten has a smaller than normal cerebellum.

CH kittens can be safely spayed/neutered, strongly urged to keep strictly indoors (losing their balance leaves them vulnerable to prey) and will learn to adapt to their "abilities" over time!

Although some kittens may be more prone to minor injuries associated with falls, all of them are able to have a normal life expectancy provided they are given extra love & patience!

ASKING YOUR VETERINARIAN

- Are you aware of and/or ever cared for a cerebellar hypoplasia patient?
- Do you have any reservations in caring for a CH pet?
- Are pre-anesthetic physical examinations & pre-surgical bloodwork required/completed?
- Can I request that pre-anesthetic bloodwork be completed on my pet **PRIOR** to surgery/procedure?
- Premedication(s) – What type(s) are utilized?
- Do you intubate anesthetized patients (this ensures that their airways stay open & they receive enough oxygen)?
- Are IV catheters utilized? May I request that an IV catheter is utilized for my pet?
- Do you monitor body functions under anesthesia (HR/RR/BP/ETCO₂, SPO₂, Temp)?
- Documentation of patient parameters during anesthesia/recovery (anesthesia record)
- Continued patient support & monitoring in recovery (post-anesthesia)?

ANESTHESIA & CEREBELLAR HYPOPLASIA

Dr. Cary Craig from UC Davis Veterinary was the only doctor that debunked the common misconceptions surrounding anesthesia & CH:

- ✓ There are **NO** medical contraindications to any anesthetic techniques in CH, however there are considerations (particularly with respect to recovery from general anesthesia).
- ✓ Strongly recommended to use short acting or reversible techniques.
- ✓ Inhalant (like isoflurane) has the advantage of being short acting & recovery is rapid once the inhalant is discontinued.
- ✓ Propofol (a short acting injectable anesthetic) or isoflurane/sevoflurane are recommended.
- ✓ Gas should be delivered by endotracheal tube rather than face mask (this is to help protect their airways and help avoid airway obstructions/aspiration).
- ✓ Strongly recommend use of analgesic (pain control medication) and it is also best used as pre-medication (given prior to surgery).
- ✓ Gas anesthesia is not safer than injectable, but it does offer several advantages in many situations.
- ✓ In CH cat's rapid recovery is the primary advantage!
- ✓ It is **NOT** dangerous to use Ketamine in CH pets but recovery from Ketamine can be unpleasant for **ANY** animal.
- ✓ Ketamine has a long duration which gets longer if used IM as an anesthetic.