



CANCER TREATMENT

The treatment recommendations for cancer in dogs and cats vary by tumor type, location, histopathology and staging results.

Surgery is often advised to remove the bulk of the tumor; however, sometimes it is palliative, especially when the particular cancer is known to have a high rate of metastasis. Radiotherapy is a good option for tumors that are in locations that can't be removed, or if microscopic disease is left behind after surgery. It is also great for localized pain relief. Finally, we can use chemotherapy to shrink tumors prior to surgery, to treat residual microscopic disease, if the tumor can't be excised surgically, or as sole treatment for certain cancer types (i.e. lymphoma, multiple myeloma, leukemia).

Atlantic Coast Veterinary Specialists is committed to providing your patients the best oncological services available. We have included the cancer treatment chart below to serve as a resource to you. Please do not hesitate to contact us for consultation or referral.

| NEOPLASIA | SURGERY | RADIATION | METASTATIC RATE | CHEMOTHERAPY | NOTES |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LYMPHOMA | Rarely | Select cases; very radioresponsive. May be sole treatment for feline nasal LSA | Typically systemic disease | Yes; very chemoresponsive | Surgery for: obstruction, localized disease, indolent splenic LSA |
| OSTEOSARCOMA | Yes; palliative. Limb-sparing surgery available for select cases | Palliative or if nonresectable | High | Yes | If nonresectable, aggressive analgesics including bisphosphonates |
| HEMANGIOSARCOMA | If amenable | Palliative or if nonresectable | High | Yes; chemoresponsive | |
| MAST CELL TUMOR | Yes | Post-operative or if nonresectable | Varies by grade | Varies by grade, presence of metastasis or macroscopic disease | Antihistamine and steroid if macroscopic |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ANAL SAC ADENOCARCINOMA | Remove primary tumor and any local metastasis | Post-operative or if nonresectable | High | Yes | Slow-growing; benefit present to removing metastatic lymph nodes |
| MELANOMA | Remove primary tumor only if no metastasis | Post-operative or if nonresectable | High | Yes | Melanoma vaccine |
| SOFT TISSUE SARCOMA | Yes | Post-operative or if nonresectable | Low, but varies by grade | Metronomic chemotherapy if post-operative radiotherapy not done; cytotoxic chemotherapy if high grade or metastatic | Feline injection site sarcoma: excisional biopsy should be performed only by a specialist |
| TRANSITIONAL CELL CARCINOMA | If amenable (typically trigonal and nonresectable) | Select cases | High, but die of local obstruction | Yes, including COX-2 inhibitor | Avoid cystocentesis as tumors can seed |
| HISTIOCYTIC SARCOMA | If amenable (solitary lung, skin, possibly spleen) | Post-operative or if nonresectable | High | Yes | |
| PRIMARY LUNG CARCINOMA | If localized to one lung lobe and no metastasis | Typically unavailable in veterinary medicine; possibly stereotactic RT (i.e. Cyberknife) | Varies by grade | Varies by grade, presence of metastasis or macroscopic disease | |
| MAMMARY CARCINOMA | Yes | Typically unavailable in veterinary medicine; (electron beam therapy required) | Varies by grade | Varies by grade, presence of metastasis or macroscopic disease | Cats; strip mastectomy advised (possibly bilateral) |
| SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA | If amenable | Select cases | Low | Select cases | |