

### Why I'm here:

Debilitation, possibly floating  
but found on land

Patient : Dina  
Species : Loggerhead  
Latin Name: *Caretta caretta*  
Age : Adult  
Gender : Female  
Weight : 80.45 kg/176.99 lbs  
Found : Fernandina Beach, FL  
Arrived : September 14, 2013  
Rescued by : Amelia Island  
Turtle Watch



### Exam Findings:

- Moderate to heavy epibionts
- Swollen neck with a large hole (suspect a ruptured abscess)
- Numerous diffuse skin growths on neck, upper hind limbs, around eyes
  - Lethargic
- Flotation abnormality. Significant tilt to the left side
  - Very green urine

### Diagnostic Findings:

**Blood work:** mildly low glucose and blood protein. Severely low albumin and blood urea nitrogen. Mildly elevated uric acid-probable dehydration. Mildly elevated muscle enzymes. Blood had green plasma when spun down.

**Radiographs (x-ray):** Moderate amount of gas present in GI tract and suspect air and fluid present in body cavity.

**CT scan:** Air and fluid confirmed. No internal tumors noted. Still pending confirmation with radiologist

**Skin biopsy:** microscopic exam consistent with fibropapilloma (FP). DNA testing confirmed that the skin lesions are caused by a herpes virus and consistent with FP.

**Coelomic (body cavity) tap:** Recovered air and clear fluid. Air in the body cavity is likely the result of a lung tear.



### TREATMENT

#### FOR:

Dina

(MAY BE PREVIOUS OR  
CURRENT)

Fluids (LRS + 2.5% dextrose + B-vits) given subcutaneously for dehydration

Meloxicam (Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory) for neck swelling

Metronidazole and Amikacin (broad spectrum antibacterial coverage)

Cisapride (gastrointestinal motility enhancement)

Baytril/Dexamethosone/DMSO placed on neck wound after flushing and cleaning with chlorhexidine.

Denamarin (homeopathic drug to help liver enzymes, made with milk thistle)

Lysine anti-herpesvirus in humans and cats. Experimental in this case. This disease cannot be transmitted to humans.

PRESCRIBED: *DR. NORTON, DVM*

### Update:

Treatment for the lung tear includes once weekly body cavity taps to remove the air. This seems to temporarily improve the abnormal flotation but then the air quickly returns as does the severe flotation issue. We are hopeful over time that the tear will heal on its own. Surgery may be necessary but is very complicated.

### Current Weight:

