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Ovarian Cysts

There seem to be a number of sows around with Ovarian Cysts at the moment. Symptoms of Ovarian Cysts can include:

- bilateral hair loss on the sides of the abdomen over the area of the Ovaries
- a rounder abdomen giving the guinea more of a pear-shaped appearance
- sexually aggressive behaviour
- crusty nipples
- passing blood

Many Vets will only offer a total spay (Ovio-Hysterectomy to remove the ovaries and uterus) as the solution because they are not aware that there is an alternative that is a much less invasive solution. Hormone injections are often very effective where guineas have Ovarian Cysts. A couple of my own sows have had this treatment and it has been very effective with no side-effects. Two injections of [Chorulon](#) given 10 days apart is the usual course of treatment.

In my experience if there has been hair loss, new hair usually starts growing back after 7-10 days. Despite having a guinea-competent Vet who is also a very good surgeon, I personally would never put any of my sows with Ovarian Cysts through an Ovio-Hysterectomy operation as I feel it is too invasive for such a small animal.

If you haven't come across Ovarian Cysts before or would like to know more, take a look at [this informative article](#).

Information contained in this article is for guidance only and is no substitute for proper Veterinary care.