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Background

A 3-year-old Belgian shepherd named Pauli sustained a serious left ear laceration following an altercation with another dog. Initial examination revealed significant tissue loss of the pinna, exposed cartilage and extension of the wound into the vertical canal (Figure 1). The owner was informed that amputation of the ear was likely given the seriousness of the trauma and likelihood of associated infection.



Figure 1. Day 4 – traumatic skin tear to the left pinna and vertical canal.

Aim

The aim of this case study was to evaluate the effect of a bacteria and fungi binding dressing in the management of a high risk wound. Figure 1.

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* Sorbact[®] Foam, ABIGO Medical Sweden.

Management of the wound

The wound was deemed a difficult surgical repair given the nature and location. A large amount of liquid cleansing was required accompanied by mechanical debridement. The wound was initially managed using antibiotics and dressed using a bacteria and fungi binding dressing (Sorbact, ABIGO Medical AB). On day 4 (Figure 1) additional devitalised tissue was debrided and a management plan involving a dressing change and wound review by the owner every three days was initiated (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Dressing of the wound using bacteria and fungi binding foam dressing*

Results

The use of the bacteria and fungi binding dressing facilitated wound healing and infection prevention over a 3 week period (Figure 3). At no stage throughout the management of the wound did the owner become concerned about the outcome. At each dressing change an improvement was noted and



Figure 3. 3 weeks – Healing outcome achieved using a bacteria and fungi binding foam dressing.

Discussion

The Sorbact dressing works to prevent wound infection and facilitate wound healing by binding to and removing wound microorganisms¹. (Figure 4) The passive action of the dressing creates a wound environment conducive to healing. The dressings ease of use in this case allowed management to be conducted at home. No requirement for further debridement under anaesthesia was realised reducing the financial burden associated with care considerably.



Figure 4. Wound bacteria and fungi bind to bacteria and fungi binding dressing*

Conclusion

The option for clinicians to use a safe, cost effective, easy to use dressing such as Sorbact in the management of 'at risk wounds' in the acute setting is quite appealing. This individual case study has demonstrated how a bacteria and fungi binding dressing can aid in the prevention of wound infection and facilitate normal wound healing. On the basis of this case it is felt scope exists to pursue a larger study in the management of the 'at risk wound' in the veterinary setting.

References

1. Ljungh, Å, Yanagisawa, N. Wadström, T. *Using the principle of hydrophobic interaction to bind and remove wound bacteria.* Journal of Wound Care, Vol. 15, Iss. 4, 01 Apr 2006, pp 175- 180