

Demonstrating the management of an oedematous ulcerated limb on a shire mare

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Introduction

An eight year old Shire Mare, presented with necrotic vasculitis as a result of an oedematous limb that had ulcerated. Dimensions to the medio plantar left hind limb distal cannon area were 9cm x 10cm (Image 1). The wound had a necrotic appearance. It was initially surgically debrided back to the wound margins to encourage granulation; this was done under sedation. The exudate was purulent at times and heavy in volume when the wound was at its largest. We were concerned about the limb being oedematous and so swollen that the circulation was obviously compromised, thus would delay the healing process. She has a foal at foot, and her only previous past medical history involved fertility treatment.

Methods

The wound was debrided with a Versajett[™] machine with Hartmanns[™] solution. This was performed every other day for two weeks. Cutimed[®] Siltec[®] foam dressings were used to absorb the exudate and provide a moist wound environment (Image 2).

When the owner lavaged the wound he used a saline solution. Initially the dressings were changed every two to three days, then, later on when the wound was granulating and starting to epithelialise every four to five days.

Results

The wound was treated over a three month period. The wound contracted slowly, exudate level reduced and the dressing managed the exudate well. Cutimed[®] Siltec[®] absorbed excess exudate efficiently, holding the exudate within the dressing (Image 4), whilst maintaining a moist wound interface. The dressing was extremely easy to apply and remove and did not adhere to the wound surface. There was no patient interference or discomfort during any of the dressing changes or in between. The wound was bandaged with a soft synthetic padding, cotton wool, conforming layer and a tertiary layer. Despite this wound being bandaged for three months there was no maceration or other bandage sores observed (Image 5 & 6).

Conclusion

This case was more challenging than any other as the mare belonged to a farmer who had no stables so the mare and foal had to live out. This was their normal routine so they were less stressed and quite happy. It also meant the Mare was able to walk around the field improving the swelling and circulation in her limb.

This wound had minimal impact on her life, normal routine. She could continue to nurse her foal. This was partly due to her gentle and quiet nature and the fact that she was very cooperative at each treatment / dressing change.

I felt that the Cutimed[®] Siltec[®] appeared comfortable in situ, and it managed the exudate well. This was a very challenging wound as it was so large initially and took several weeks to heal. I felt that Cutimed[®] Siltec[®] foam dressing assisted in achieving the wound to close.

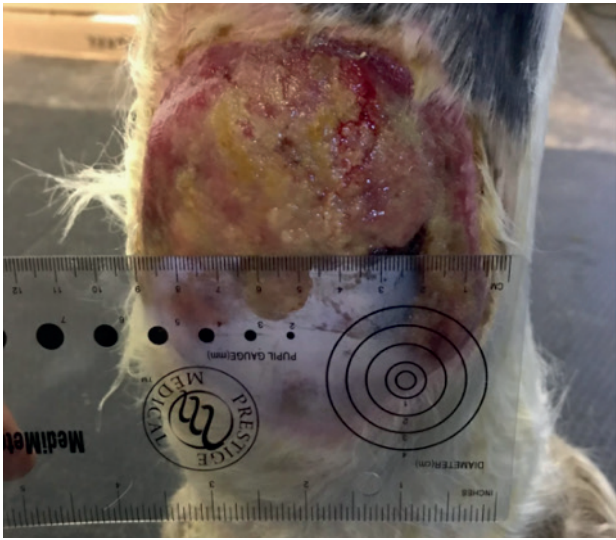


Image 1



Image 2

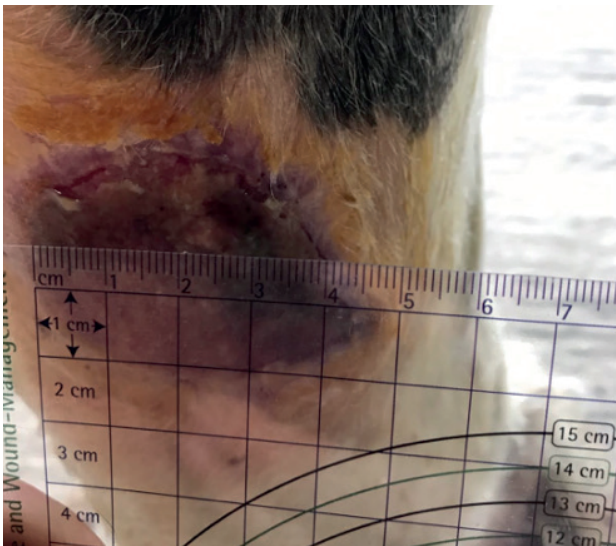


Image 3



Image 4

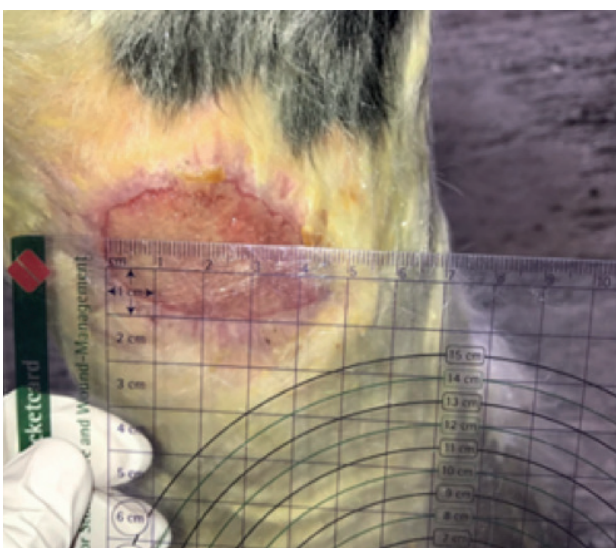


Image 5



Image 6