

## A NEW COMBINED TOPICAL TREATMENT FOR BITE WOUNDS IN THE CAT: CASE REPORT

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Purpose: The mouths of both dogs and cats are heavily contaminated with aerobic, anaerobic, Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria. In addition to inoculating bacteria under the skin, the jaws and teeth of animals can cause severe trauma, not only to the skin but especially to the underlying deep tissues. What is seen at the initial presentation is usually just the "tip of the iceberg" with respect to damage to the underlying structures. We report of one case of bite wounds successfully treated by a new combination of topical management options.

Methods: A 1-year-old male Domestic Shorthair was presented to the referring veterinary surgeon with hindlimb puncture wounds of 7 days duration. The cat bite, that was inflicted to the knee area, resulted in a penetration injury involving both the superficial tissues in the rear part of the joint and the deeper peri-articular tissues with a massive intra-articular bacterial contamination. Each wound was addressed separately in considering management options. Both of them were not considered suitable for a primary closure and were allowed to heal by second intention. Local debridement and lavage of the wounds were followed by a combined topical management. It consisted of a glycerine-based hydrogel wound dressing - used for the deeper wound only - and a re-epithelializing gel that was applied locally as the only management option for the superficial tissue injury and as an adjuvant treatment for the deeper peri-articular tissue injury.

Results: Both wounds healed with no complication in about a month. The patient made an excellent recovery and is fully mobile. The weight-bearing function is restored with satisfactory cosmetic outcome.

Conclusion: The new combined topical treatment used in this clinical case seems to be a promising management option for optimizing wound healing of small animal complicated wounds.