L-Mesitran® Case Study: C127

Hoof ulcer - Horse

A 15 year old gelding (Piecon) was diagnosed on 14/02/12 with a hoof ulcer (pododermatitis) by the blacksmith. The right front leg of the horse had already been lame for a week and a half. The veterinarian was under the impression that it was a sprain / irritation of the sesamoid bone (Os sesamoideum), since the horse did not react when touching the sole of the hoof with a pincer. Because there were doubts, the farrier (Thijs Gerritsen, Laag-Keppel, The Netherlands) was consulted. When the horse was brought in for inspection, fluids dripped from the bottom of the sole. The veterinarian surgically removed the hoof ulcer of 3x2cm.

Standard protocols recommend a daily treatment with gauze soaked with povidone iodine or another disinfectant, applied on the hoof surface during one week. The next week remains without treatment and the week thereafter the hoof is again being treated with soaked gauzes. A treatment may in fact take much longer when the ulcer isn’t diagnosed immediately or when treated incorrectly (Oosterlinck, 2011).

In this case the ulcer was surgically removed (fig. 1) because the right front leg of the horse had already became lame. Directly after the surgical debridement the treatment with honey ointment was started (L-Mesitran).

Product: L-Mesitran ointment
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Method
The wound was rinsed daily with tap water and povidone iodine (Betadine®). Thereafter the honey ointment was applied to the wound which was covered with cotton wool and fixated with duct tape (fig. 2).

Results
On February 19 (fig. 3), after 5 days of daily treatment with the honey ointment, the wound is weakened, movement is still sensitive. After 10 days of treatment (fig. 4) it is clearly visible that the wound is closing. After 14 days (fig. 5) the horse is able to move normal again. The geling is allowed in the meadow, but the hoof is still packed with honey ointment, cotton wool and duct tape to avoid damage to the newly formed (and delicate) tissue. The last picture (fig. 6), taken after the latest visit to the blacksmith, shows that the affected area was very large.

Discussion
Pododermatitis (hoof ulcer) is one of the most common affections of horseshoes. It manifests itself as a soft whitish wound with a foul odor and is, in most cases, caused by the stable conditions. (Nagamine, 2005).

Surgical debridement and appropriate antimicrobial therapy are generally sufficient to solve the problem (Wilson, 1989). In this case, anti-bacterial honey ointment (Stephen-Haynes, 2011) was used directly after surgical debridement. The wound healed in two weeks time. This healing time is one week shorter than the vet and farrier had expected and much sooner than studies show; one month seems to be normal for this condition to heal (Oosterlinck, 2011). In this case daily treatments with anti-bacterial honey ointment seem to be a good therapy for the treatment of pododermatitis.

Declaration
This case study was done independently.

References
- Oosterlinck M et al. (2011) Retrospective study on 30 horses with chronic proliferative pododermatitis (canker). Equine Veterinary Education 23 (9): 466–471