MANAGING HORSE WOUNDS WITH AN INNOVATIVE WOUND DRESSING

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OBJECTIVE/METHOD

Complications such as wound infection, formation of exuberant granulation tissue (EGT, „Proud Flesh")and hypertrophic scarring are frequent negative side effects of wound healing in horses, especially at the distal aspect of the limb. The „Proud Flesh" is considered similar to the keloid of the human skin and, together with wound contamination/infection, is currently the most complicated aspect of wound managment in equine.
The aim of this study was to evaluate the healing performance of traumatic horse wounds, either presenting or not with exuberant granulation tissue or exposed bone, using „one" and restricting the systemic antibiotic administration only to the first week after trauma.
A total of **57 horses presenting a traumatic wound** were consecutively treated with one. The protocol involved the sole use of one applied daily till complete epithelialisation (no secondary dressing). In the cases in which exuberant granulation tissue protruded the skin level more than 0.5cm, a permanent semi-occlusive pressure bandage was applied using non sterile cotton gauzes and cohesive elastic wrap.

MAIN RESULTS

- 32 of the 57 wounds: Simple wounds with a mean wound size of 86cm^2 healing in 58 days on average.
- 25 of the 57 wounds: Wounds presenting EGT with a mean wound size of 30cm^2 healing in 79 days on average.
- There was no significant difference in terms of cosmetic aspects of the scar between the two groups.

CASE REPORT

14-year-old horse presenting a traumatic wound with exposed bone and beginning EGT formation

DAY 1 Beginning EGT formation, exposed bone, start with one

DAY 14 Significant regression of EGT formation

DAY 28 No EGT present, exposed bone coverd with granulation tissue

DAY 90 Wound closure and excellent cosmetic result of the final scar

CONCLUSION

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"Our results confirm that equine wound complicated by EGT have a lower healing performance compared to simple wounds withouth EGT."

"one in combination with the secondary dressing enabled perfect control of EGT formation without the need to perform surgical trimming and obtaining a final scar of high quality.

"A very interesting aspect was that we did not have any case with a sign of infection throughout the entire treatment even though the intake of antibiotic and/or antiseptic products was immediately stopped when treatment with one started."

"one also was effective in the cases where no secondary dressing could be applied as the neem oil has repellent properties, thereby keeping the wound free from myiasigenic flies."