

EFFICACY OF A 3% CHLORHEXIDINE SHAMPOO FOR THE RESOLUTION OF CANINE JUVENILE IMPETIGO

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The efficacy of Pyodermâ (Virbac), a 3% chlorhexidine shampoo, was evaluated with regard to resolution of clinical signs and staphylococcal infection associated with puppy impetigo. Seventeen puppies aged between 1.5 and 5 months were included in the trial. They presented with pustules on the ventrum from which free and phagocytosed cocci could be demonstrated on cytology. Deep pyoderma, lymphadenopathy, parasitic skin disease and recent treatment were exclusion criteria. Shampoo therapy was administered twice weekly for 3 weeks. No other treatment was allowed except vaccinations and deworming where required. Pustules, exudation, erythema, excoriation and pruritus as well as coccoid populations (cytology from two selected lesional sites) were each graded on a five-point severity scale before (day 1) and after the treatment period (day 21). Fifteen puppies completed the study and two were lost to follow-up. All scores decreased significantly between day 1 and day 21 (Wilcoxon signed-rank tests, $P < 0.002$, NCSS 2000 statistical software). By the end of the trial, the clinical signs had completely resolved in 12/15 dogs and they had markedly improved in another two dogs (57% and 70% reduction of the aggregate clinical scores respectively), while treatment failure was recorded in one case. None or very few cocci (≤ 1 organism/high power immersion field, $\times 1000$) were detected on cytology in 13/15 cases on day 21, while low numbers of bacteria (≤ 3 /immersion field) were detected in the remaining two cases. The test shampoo therefore proved to be an effective sole therapy to manage juvenile impetigo in dogs.

Funding: Virbac RSA