Equine Case Study

Horse with slow healing hock wound

Case Report Reference 2020001

The horse's hock joint is one of the hardest working of all the joints, and plays a critical role especially in performance horses. It is also one of the most complicated. The joint is made of several small bones, the most prominent being the Os Calsis which gives the hock its angular shape. The strength of the hocks is very important as this is the most active joint in the horse's hind legs.

With regard to wound care the severity of a hock wound depends on which, if any, of important structures are involved. Healing in this area is also complicated because it is very high motion, with very little free skin available for repair, and generally poor blood supply. The hock has so much motion with its extension and flexion articulation that sutures by themselves tend to pull out.

Case Presentation

This horse had been treated by Troytown Greyabbey equine veterinary services for a large wire cut to front of left hock not amenable to stitching or first intention healing. It was treated over a five-month period with bandaging, sequential surgical debridement and various topical applications. In addition a number of laser therapeutic sessions were done. The wound healed well but was left with a non-healing granulomatous area.

The decision was made to use an alternative topical wound ointment, Eire Hide® from Copper Hawk Ltd. Eire Hide® is a formulated, soothing barrier ointment that can be applied to all animal wound types, from abrasions to avulsions. Eire Hide® incorporates a specific blend of botanical extracts whose properties include anti-inflammatory[5,6] anti-oxidant[1] and anti-bacterial[4] behaviour to accompany accelerated veterinary wound healing.[1,2,3,6]

Treatment

Wound care recommendation was to clip around wound prior to first application and to apply Eire Hide® evenly right up to the hairline (Fig. 1). Any hosing should cease and instead use water wipes or wettened gauze for a gentle wipe clean and then use dry gauze to pat clean the wound prior to application of Eire Hide®.

Fig. 1 Day 1 of application of Eire Hide®

Fig. 2 Day 6

Fig. 3 Day 20

Fig. 4 Day 39

Outcome

Troytown Greyabbey equine veterinary services reported that *"the wound showed a good response to treatment decreasing significantly in size".*

References

1. *Hashim et al. (2012) Triterpene composition and Bioactivities of Centella Asiatica. Molecules.*
2. *FangWu et al. (2012) Identification of Major Active Ingredients Responsible for Burn Wound Healing of Centella Asiatica Herbs. Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine.*
3. *Nassim Moradi Rad et al. (2018) The Wound Healing Effect of Plantago Major Leaf Extract in a Rat Model: An Experimental Confirmation of a Traditional Belief in Persian Medicine. Herbal Medicines Journal.*
4. *Jimenez-Gonzalez et al. (2013) Anti-infectious activity in plants of the genus Tabebuia. Journal of the Faculty of Science, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana*
5. *Hussan et al. (2015) Anti-Inflammatory Property of Plantago Major Leaf Extract Reduces the Inflammatory Reaction in Experimental Acetaminophen-Induced Liver Injury. Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine.*
6. *Hamedi et al. (2017) The Genus Scrophularia: A Source of Iridoids and Terpenoids with a Diverse Biological Activity. Journal of Pharmaceutical Biology.*