

TREATMENT OF A FACIAL ABSCESS OF DENTAL ORIGIN IN FERRET

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INTRODUCTION

The ferret (*Mustela putorius furo*) belongs to the Order Carnivorous, family Mustelidae. The ferrets have 30 teeth decidual and 34 permanent teeth. The dental permanent formula is: 2 (I 3/3, C 1/1, P 3/3, M 1/2). The supernumerary incisor teeth are common in the adult animals.

The facial abscesses of dental origin are relatively frequent in the ferrets, due to the high incident of disease periodontal in this species and specially in ferrets of more than six years old. Another cause of the dental abscesses is due to the wrong practice of "cutting the teeth away" to reduce the damages on having bitten.

CLINICAL CASE

A ferret of 5 year old female who was presenting a soft swelling in the right temporary region compatible with an abscess with drainage of purulent material towards the meatus acusticus externus and ear (Photo 1, 2). In the first oral exploration they do not appreciate signs of disease periodontal, dental fractures, stomatitis or another oral pathology. These absence of signs of oral disease made us think about an otic origin about the abscess well be for some foreign body or some suppurative otitis.

One proceeds to realize a general anesthesia of the patient for a drainage of the abscess, capture of sample for culture and antibiogram and oral definitive exploration. First a careful wash is realized with normal saline of the right ear for his visualization with otoscopia no foreign body being observed in the meatus acusticus externus. Later one proceeds to the oral exploration and a severe gingivitis is estimated in the vestibular gingiva to 409 by mobility III (Photo 3).

A periapical intraoral radiography is made and a severe granuloma apical estimates in the tooth 409 in the root mesial, loss of vertical bone, loss of bone in the furca, partial reabsorption of the cervical third of the root mesial and loss of the jaw bone (Photo 4).

There is realized a drainage of the abscess and extirpation of the whole capsule of the same one, there is sent a sample of the purulent material and of the capsule for his microbiological study. When we do the drainage of the abscess we observe the appearance of bled by the vestibular gingiva to the tooth 409.

We make a block of the alveolar mandibular nerve in his entry for the mandibular canal with bupivacaïne and fulfil the exodontia of the tooth 409, a curettage of the underlying bone and a careful disinfection with clorhexidina to 0,12 % (Photo 5).

In the microbiological analysis *Staphylococcus spp* was identified and the antibiogram gave sensitively the ampiciline. To 10 days one proceeded postsurgery to remove the stitches (Photo 6) and in the oral exploration it was estimated to good cicatrization. A last review was done to 40 days not having recidiva of the abscess and being the animal in perfect conditions (Photo 6, 7).



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7

CONCLUSIONS

It is very important to do always an oral exploration to the ferrets when they come to a Veterinary Clinic, because the incident of periodontal disease in this species is very high and the abscesses are common in the mandibular region and it are caused by bacteria of the genera *Staphylococcus*, *Streptococcus* and *Proteus*