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Editorial

The Role of Dental Extractions in Feline Chronic Gingivostomatitis (FCGS)

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Feline chronic gingivostomatitis is a severe, debilitating disease of the oral cavity which may lead to death or euthanasia of the animal. Mean age at the time of diagnosis is 7 years, while the cause is unclarified. Pathogenesis of the disease is not fully specified yet; it seems that viral infections (Feline Calicivirus and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus), immune system dysfunction and teeth microbial plaque play an important role in disease's progress. Diagnosis can be made quite safely after oral inspection, but histopathology will differentiate from other diseases with similar clinical manifestations, if needed. Aim of the treatment mainly targets on pain alleviation and reducing of the oral mucosa inflammation. Corticosteroids are the most commonly used anti-inflammatory drugs for the treatment of FCGS. However, the continuous use of corticosteroid makes the treatment ineffective after a time period and can cause diabetes mellitus or Cushing's disease. Antiviral or immune booster drugs have limited effectiveness in FCGS treatment.

It seems that the only effective way to deal with the diseases process is altering the oral microbiota from basically anaerobic to aerobic. Shifting of the oral flora is believed to play an important role in reducing the oral mucosa inflammation. Treatment protocol initially includes extraction of the teeth suffering from periodontal disease, scaling and polishing of the remaining teeth. Non- steroid anti inflammatory drugs and opioids should be administered for the management of the pain for a few days postoperatively. Adequate antimicrobials for anaerobic bacteria (mainly clindamycin) should also be administered for 4-6 weeks and a chlorexidine based gel or paste as needed. If the disease recurs teeth extractions should be extend to all premolars and molars and drug therapy must be repeated. In cases where the disease persists, full mouth extractions are required and drug therapy should be repeated as mentioned. Recent studies showed that partial or full mouth extractions combined with the proper pharmaceutical treatment can control more than 85% of FCGS cases.

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