Improper local antibiotic (perioceutic) usage
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One of the current methods being used to promote gingival reattachment is local treatment with antimicrobials. There are several human products available as well as a veterinary labelled doxycycline\textsuperscript{a} and clindamycin\textsuperscript{b} gel. These products are designed to create a long-term/high-dose antimicrobial effect directly within the periodontal space, with minimal systemic absorption. Local antimicrobial administration has been shown to decrease bacterial counts further than scaling/root planning (SRP) alone. They are effective in decreasing periodontal inflammation and increasing attachment gains (reduced pocket depth), and safe for routine use.

Local antibiotics are best suited for use in periodontal pockets in dogs between 3 and 5-mm. Pockets greater than 5 mm are too deep to effectively clean with closed root planing alone, and therefore require surgical therapy (periodontal flaps).

Once a suitable periodontal pocket is discovered it must first be treated with closed root planing. Local antibiotic therapy is an aid to standard SRP, not a substitute for it. After the tooth is scaled and root cleanliness is confirmed, the pocket/sulcus is lavaged. The pocket is then ready for the application of the medication. The technique for preparation and application of the veterinary labelled product is described in a previous newsletter.

Recently we have seen several patients shortly following a dental procedure at their referring practice. Periodontal pockets have been found in some cases which have been treated with a perioceutic. However, many of these are deeper than 6-mm, poorly cleaned, or both.

In the case presented here, the patient was found to have a 9 mm periodontal pocket (figure 1). This pocket is too deep for closed root planing and therefore the case selection was incorrect. Further, when explored, significant residual subgingival calculus was discovered (Figure 2). The perioceutic is of little to no use if the teeth are not properly cleaned. The tooth was extracted revealing significant dental calculus running almost the entire length of the palatal aspect of the root (figure 3).

\begin{itemize}
  \item Perioceutics are great adjunct treatments for increasing attachment gains in periodontal pockets
  \item They are only indicated in periodontal pockets in dogs between 3 and 5-mm.
  \item They are to be used in addition to proper subgingival scaling, not instead of it.
  \item Incompletely cleaned teeth will not allow for reattachment. Therefore the perioceutic is wasted and the infection remains.
\end{itemize}

\textsuperscript{a} Doxirobe: Zoetis.
\textsuperscript{b} Clindorol: Trilogic pharma.