Honey therapy after skin flap for contaminated forelimb skin laceration in a dog.

Sungho Lee, Chibong Choi, Hwangseok Chang, Daijung Chung, Jaehoon Lee, Eunhee Kang, Wojong Yang, Daehyun Kim, Wookhun Chung, Hwiyool Kim*

Department of Veterinary Surgery, College of Veterinary Medicine, Konkuk University, Seoul, Korea.

Signalment: A poodle (5 year-old, intact female) was referred to Konkuk Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital for bilateral forelimb skin laceration after HBC (hit by car). Laceration extended into the skin, subcutaneous and muscular tissues, and its range was from middle of shoulder to digits. FCU (flexor carpi ulnaris) muscle had been severed distally in the left leg. The wound was contaminated and septic shock was suspected.

Results: We flushed laceration site with 500 ml of 0.9 % normal saline containing gentamicin and 0.05% chlorhexidine. The wound was surgically reconstructed by skin flap and Penrose drain was placed on the site of injured muscle. We started honey therapy when we found out necrosis of the flaped skin. The honey therapy was performed twice a day. The necrotic tissues were debrided with the bandage changes and honey therapy. The wound was clean and there was no evidence of contamination after 2 weeks of honey therapy. There was a good granulation tissue bed and skin was covered by epithelial cell migration. However, the tension on the skin edges were high due to the extensive skin defect from the accident.

Clinical relevance: The result suggests that honey therapy is effective for the debridement of necrotic tissues and dilution of exudates thereby promoting their excretion. This makes the therapy useful in treating infected wounds.

Key words: honey therapy, skin flap, HBC, skin laceration, dog

* Corresponding author: hykim@konkuk.ac.kr