

## Postgrooming Furunculosis

A 2-year-old crossbreed German shepherd dog was presented for lethargy, pain, anorexia, and rapidly progressing skin lesions. The lesions, which were predominantly on the dorsal and lateral aspects of the thorax and gluteal region, were compatible with postgrooming furunculosis.

The owner reported that the dog's lethargy, pain, and anorexia developed within 24 hours of bathing and that skin lesions developed 1 day after the onset of systemic signs. The dog had been bathed in a nonmedicated, over-the-counter shampoo, most of which came from a bottle purchased 7 months previously.

Cytology from an intact pustule showed degenerative neutrophils and macrophages with occasional rod-shaped bacteria. Bacterial culture of the skin and a previously opened shampoo bottle revealed *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*; molecular testing demonstrated that the strains had identical pulse-field patterns. Culture of the newly opened bottle of shampoo, which accounted for a small

amount of the shampoo used in the dog's bath, was negative for bacteria.

The dog was treated for 8 weeks with oral ciprofloxacin and once-weekly baths with a shampoo containing 3% chlorhexidine gluconate. The skin lesions were completely resolved at 3 and 8 weeks after initial presentation. The authors concluded that shampoos should be handled in a hygienic manner to minimize risk for animals developing postgrooming furunculosis.

### Commentary

Postgrooming furunculosis is increasingly being recognized as an important clinical entity.<sup>1,2</sup> A recent case report described a dog with postgrooming furunculosis that developed sepsis and multiorgan failure that led to death.<sup>3</sup>

Many things can cause an acute onset of fever, anorexia, and lethargy, but key clues suggesting postgrooming furunculosis include pain and widespread skin lesions with a predominantly dorsal distribution. Clinicians should always ask about recent bathing, as not all owners will think of this information as important. Hair trichograms should be performed to rule out demodicosis, and cytology should be used to look for intra- and extracellular rods. The finding of rods on skin cytology from a pyoderma



are worrisome, as cocci are the expected finding.—Karen A. Moriello, DVM, DACVD

### References

1. Hillier A, Alcorn JR, Cole LK, Kowalski JJ. Pyoderma caused by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* infection in dogs: 20 cases. *Vet Dermatol*. 2006; 17(6):432-439.
2. Cain CL, Mauldin EA. Clinical and histologic features of dorsally located furunculosis in dogs following water immersion or exposure to grooming products: 22 cases (2005-2013). *J Am Vet Med Assoc*. 2015;246(5):522-529.
3. Pipe-Martin HN, Peterson TA, Langohr ML, et al. Sepsis and multi-organ dysfunction associated with post grooming furunculosis in a dog. *Vet Dermatol*. 2016;27(3):198-e49.

### Source

Tham HL, Jacob ME, Bizikova P. Molecular confirmation of shampoo as the putative source of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*-induced postgrooming furunculosis in a dog. *Vet Dermatol*. 2016;27(4): 320-e80.



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