Covid-19-related Tip—Plan B

Possible work-around for ocular vascular tumours & cutaneous haemangiomas/haemangiosarcomas and squamous cell carcinomas (SCC)

by Dr Aine Seavers

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Dear Colleagues

Most of us are either on the frontline of vet medicine or supporting the frontliners. We’re also worried about real risks and concerns as to how best treat our patients whilst minimising contact and use of vital PPE gear. So, I thought I would share a possible ‘work-around’ for some ocular vascular tumours and potentially some cutaneous haemangiomas, haemangiosarcomas and SCCs.


Mitomycin is a cytotoxic drug from the fermentation process of Streptomyces. Clients should be educated on the safe handling of these agents including double gloves, goggles and waste disposal.

MTC, formulated as a cytotoxic liquid ophthalmic preparation, is routinely prescribed in human ophthalmology for use as a homebased, self-medication therapy.

In the two cases below, one drop of 0.04% compounded Mitomycin C (MTC), 4 times daily x 7 days on and 7 off over 6 weeks worked for the eyes.

The success has been so absolute and fast that now when I am presented with flocculated skin lesion in 2 dogs both with very stressed owners during Covid-19 (with limited funds ) with what appear mostly likely to be a haemangiosarcoma and a SCC, I have spoken in-depth with the owners about the off-label use of compounded MTC topically in these cases.

Figure 1. Lesion prior to treatment
The Centre for Veterinary Education of The University of Sydney – 15 April 2020
cve.edu.au

Thank you to Dr Seavers for sharing this tip.
It will appear in Issue 299 June 2020 of the C&T Series
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The good thing about MTC is it really, really seems to kick in by the second cycle-week 3-4. So, we will know quickly if working.

Even if it did not completely clear the lesion, an equine paper in 2019 showed MTC dramatically reduced relapse in surgically treated ocular haemangio-sarcomas in horses: to the point maybe equine vets should only operate after the MTC has failed, if it were ever to fail.

Yes, this is not a registered treatment...yet. However, these are crazy times. The less vets have to operate or be in same airspace as clients, the less wastage of shared human medical PPE gear etc.

Important
If you do decide to use MTC in Australia, please only use CustomCare Pharmacy as the compounder. Normally it would not matter but given this is such an early scientific finding; I am trying to reduce the variables. Compounded medications vary between pharmacies, so please just use Customcare for the moment. The vet or the

Figure 2. Lesion resolving after MTC treatment

Figure 3. My 2nd case prior to MTC treatment

Figure 4. Lesion resolved post MTC treatment
client: emails the compounder the script; the client is phoned, pays the chemist; the full handling advice is given by chemist to owner and the drug cold chain shipped to the owner’s door. Cost is about $90-$100 per treatment cycle, so $300 total for 6 weeks. This Client-Chemist system is perfect for Covid-19 as minimal handling, minimal airspace sharing and major reduction in use of medical disposable and PPE gear by vets,

If any one does use the protocol as I would love to have some more pre- and post-photos. This is my latest clinical invention and very dear to my heart, so please keep me posted via reception@oakflatsvet.com.au
Covid-19-related Tip

Necessity is the mother of invention! Repurposing towelettes

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Repurpose 1

As any wipes, let alone the Clean N Clear facewipes, are impossible to find during Covid-19, our Brachycephalic owners are struggling to keep their dog’s facial folds clean.

An alternative wipe may be repurposed airplane disposable towelettes—the small little hot face cloth the airhostess brings you to refresh your face and hands or provided in restaurants after a messy meal...

There is now no market demand for these items. A random café owner donated some boxes to us. I embraced the challenge to find a repurpose. One way was to give our brachy pet owners a packet each to use; either in a vinegar soak or plain water soak rinse for the face or to wipe the face dry. The towelettes are washable and reusable if needs be, so enviro friendly.

Repurpose 2

For low grade chronic anal sac issue: Owners advised to square multi-fold one to use to heat-pack the anal sac area tid x 3days then sid. This has allowed some dogs to do a successful productive scoot. Again, not a gold standard approach, but these are unusual times.

So, if you have café or airline contacts, see if they want to off-load or sell you some. Oshiklenz is an Australian supplier.

Repurpose 3

My nurses use the towelettes as face wipes, baby wipes or a separate bucket-lot to use as washable toilet paper for their own 2-legged children.

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