



# Use of DOUXO® Chlorhexidine Mousse in a Litter of Kittens

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**DOUXO® Chlorhexidine Mousse is easy to apply on extended lesions in young kittens. It is convenient to use and effective at controlling skin infections.**

Five, 3 week-old kittens were brought to Hospital Veterinario Global (General Veterinary Hospital), all of them presenting with itching and skin lesions.

## Medical history

The patients were European Shorthair kittens (two males and three females) found under a hood of a car. The pet owner then brought the kittens inside and surrounded them with bags of hot rice to keep them warm. They were neither vaccinated nor wormed. They were fed milk for kittens and had never been bathed.

Ten days prior to the visit, the owners observed excessive licking, and within a short amount of time, skin lesions appeared. Two days prior to the consultation they received a topical treatment with aloe vera, but their condition worsened.

## General and dermatological examinations

At the consultation, all five kittens had normal vital signs with no loss of appetite and no fever.

The dermatological examination revealed widespread severe pruritus, moderate erythema, some erosion and abundant exudate which had scabbed and was encrusted in the fur. The lesions were located in the posterior third of all the kittens and varied only in the intensity and extent among the patients (Figures 1-4).

## Differential diagnosis

Pruritus and erythema were predominant in the dermatological clinical picture. Given that the entire litter was affected, the differential diagnosis included contagious or genetic diseases, those due to their surrounding environment and



**Figures 1, 2, 3 :** Lesions on one of the males, showing the caudal distribution of the erythema and exudate.

**Figure 4.** Lesions on a female, similar to those of the cat in Figure 1 and the rest of the kittens in the litter.



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those affecting young individuals (or neonates) in particular, i.e.:

- Pyoderma:
  - secondary to burns (from the hot rice used to keep them warm)
  - secondary to chemical irritation (oil from the car they were found in)
  - secondary to feline neonatal sepsis
- Dermatophytosis
- Feline scabies
- Malassezia-induced dermatitis

### Additional examinations

Deep skin scraping was carried out on all the kittens, revealing no parasites. All were exposed to light from Wood's lamp, but no fluorescence showed on their fur. Microscopic examination of the hairs was carried out, revealing no forms of parasite or fungal elements.

Direct impression smears and adhesive tape strips from the erosions were carried out for cytology. These revealed bacterial overgrowth (cocci bacteria) spread generally across the slide and in particular on the corneocytes, with few or no inflammatory cells (Figure 5).



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**Figure 5.** Bacterial overgrowth (cocci) on the corneocytes.

### Diagnosis

From the history, the clinical examination, and the results of the additional examinations, a presumptive diagnosis of **pyoderma due to environmental factors** was made.

### Treatment

Because the patients were just 3 weeks of age, and the lesions were superficial, we decided to apply a topical treatment to avoid the risks of systemic antibiotic therapy, which could affect their microbiota or any immature organs that would have to metabolize the drug.

Since the lesions were spread over a large area, and to avoid the risk of hypothermia, we chose a mousse which is easy to apply on extended lesions.



**DOUXO® Chlorhexidine Mousse** is formulated with chlorhexidine gluconate (3%), climbazole (0.5%) and phytosphingosine salicyloyl (0.05%). It was applied daily on the affected areas.

For environmental management, we recommended keeping the kittens separate (to prevent them licking each other), and eliminating the use of the bags of hot rice.

### Progress

The five kittens were checked nine days after initiation of the treatment. In all cases, the lesions had practically disappeared, and only mild alopecia remained, which disappeared over time (Figures 6 and 7).



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**Figures 6 and 7:** Evolution of the lesions at nine days of treatment.

### Discussion

Pyoderma can be cured through correct environmental management and using a topical antiseptic. In this case, systemic antibiotic therapy was not necessary, thus avoiding side effects and at the same time reducing the risk of the development of bacterial strains that are resistant to antibiotics.

This case also highlights the excellent efficacy of **DOUXO® Chlorhexidine Mousse** in animals as fragile as neonate kittens with immature organs and a fragile hepatic metabolism.

Daily application is not the usual protocol for **DOUXO® Chlorhexidine Mousse**. However in this case, it was justified by the severity of the lesions and the absence of other therapeutic options. In the end **the lesions disappeared and no adverse effects occurred**.

