

Use of a daily OPHYTRIUM™ and Chlorhexidine 3% pad to manage local *Malassezia* overgrowth in a dog



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History

- › Jasmine, a 4.5-year-old female Chihuahua was brought to the veterinarian for pruritus. She had no known dermatological disorders. She was treated monthly with afoxalaner tablets for external parasites control.

Clinical examination

- › Jasmine was in good general condition.
- › She presented with alopecia, erythema and crusting on the *nasal planum*. Irritation severity was scored at 3/4 (severe). Pruritus was evaluated as 4.9/10 by the owner using a visual analogue scale.
- › Cytology showed numerous *Malassezia* yeasts (17.5 per oil immersion field (OIF) on average) and rare cocci (2.16 per OIF on average).
- › **Diagnosis: localized microbial overgrowth, mainly *Malassezia*.**

Management of the case

- › The veterinarian prescribed DOUXO® S3 PYO Pads to be applied to the affected area once daily for 14 days.



Results

- › Seven days after the first appointment, irritation had decreased from 3/4 to 1/4 (mild). The affected area had improved with only mild erythema and crusts remaining. Pruritus dropped to 0.3/10 (negligible). Cytological exam revealed no cocci and only rare *Malassezia* (1 per OIF on average).
- › At the last visit on **D14, the dermatological signs had completely resolved**, with no cocci or yeasts seen at cytological examination.
- › At D30 (14 days after the end of application), the veterinarian saw Jasmine for another medical concern and the nose was still clinically healed with no more crusting or erythema.
- › Jasmine's owner specifically highlighted the performance and practicality of the protocol. The pads were chosen for this case due to the affected area being localized and the owner considered the skin hydrated where the product had been applied. The owner also highly appreciated the coco+vanilla scent of the product.

› Before



› After 2 weeks



› After 1 month



After 14 days of daily application, the *Malassezia* overgrowth had completely resolved. Fourteen days after stopping the application, the nose was still clinically healed with no more crusting or erythema.

Discussion - Chlorhexidine action against *Malassezia pachydermatis*

› *Malassezia* colonization is a common secondary skin disorder in dogs. Evidence of chlorhexidine action against this yeast is available, both *in vitro*^{1, 2} and *in vivo*^{3, 4}. It is part of the 2020 consensus guidelines of the World Association for Veterinary Dermatology for treatment against *Malassezia* dermatitis⁵. A study carried out in 2020 with DOUXO® S3 PYO Pads⁶ showed **89% of dogs cytologically recovered from their *Malassezia* dysbiosis after a 14-day course** (applied daily). In this study, rapid improvement in itching was observed, with owners reporting

a mean decrease of 71.4% of the pruritus score after 7 days of application. This improvement can be linked to the antiseptic effect of chlorhexidine digluconate at 3% and to the soothing properties of OPHYTRIUM™, which has been shown to decrease the production of pro-inflammatory cytokines *in vitro*⁷.

› This study brings additional evidence that 3% chlorhexidine, without an azole-derivative ingredient, has activity against *Malassezia* yeasts.



| Key points

Malassezia overgrowth quickly improved in this dog with daily application of DOUXO® S3 PYO Pads. The performance of the protocol, in addition to its ease of use, led to a high level of satisfaction for the pet owner. This OPHYTRIUM™ + chlorhexidine digluconate 3% containing product is proven to have activity against *Malassezia* yeasts without the need of azole-derivative ingredients, and should be considered

as an option in the management of such secondary disorders. Repeated application of disinfectants can have a drying effect, whereas this product promotes appropriate hydration of the skin⁶. Its scent is highly appreciated (100% of the owners in the PYO Pads study⁶) even in the presence of chlorhexidine whose smell is often reported as unpleasant. All these elements are key to improving pet owner compliance.*

*Chlorhexidine can cause rare, but serious allergic reactions in humans. If you experience allergy symptoms, discontinue use immediately and seek medical treatment. Do not use DOUXO® S3 PYO Mousse in cats. Do not use DOUXO® S3 PYO Pads between the toes of cats.

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