Severe Periocular Swelling and Ocular Discharge Followed by Periapical Abscess in a Dog

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Signalment: A 10-year-old, intact female, Yorkshire Terrier had been presented with right side facial swelling for 3 days and periocular swelling had progressed over the last 24 hours.

Results: On physical examination, severe ocular discharge was observed in right eye. On skull radiography, radiolucent halo around the root of right side upper first molar was observed. We diagnosed this case as periapical abscess. The upper right first molar was extracted by the closed extraction technique. Pus was observed around the extracted tooth. After the surgery, antibiotic and corticosteroid had been administered for 10 days and topical antibiotic / corticosteroid combination drop was applied to the right eye six times per day for 10 days. The facial and periocular swelling was remarkably reduced the next day after tooth extraction and almost regressed 2 days after tooth extraction. Clinical signs were completely resolved in 10 days after tooth extraction.

Clinical relevance: Most of facial swelling caused by periapical abscess are restricted in the infraorbital region. However, in our case, the swelling spreaded out to the periorbital area and severe ocular discharge was observed. With the adequate surgical treatment following systemic antibiotic and corticosteroid for periapical abscess, and topical antibiotics / corticosteroid combination drop for ocular signs, it could be successfully treated.

Key words: periapical abscess, facial swelling, periocular swelling, dog

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