

Rounds

Animal Health
Department

Medical Rounds

"medicine for all"



Caring for Stranded Marine Animals

NATIONAL
MARINE
L I F E
CENTER

Notes

Veterinary Research
Department

Under the microscope

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Rounds Notes is a report on the health of animals at the National Marine Life Center from Sea Rogers Williams VMD for the staff, volunteers, and community of the center including professionals involved the captive care of similar species, the views expressed are not necessarily that of NMLC. Information in Rounds Notes should be considered confidential and used solely to benefit the health of aquatic animals everywhere.

October 6, 2009

Rounds Notes

21: 50-51(2009)

Clinical Update: Patty

Avascular necrosis, osteo-necrosis, and rebirth ?

Patty is holding her

The fluid coleum turned out to be 0.4 mg/dl, fluid uric an aquatic terrapin to distend to such a understood but turtles with their bladders. could even be related to limb neurological Wellehan) but no tissue was seen on the Dennison) but ofcourse tool for CNS evaluation, of the brains of terrapins (sorry Charlie) and spinal cord, even MRI may not be able to determine if a lesion is present. Patty's hind limb function continues to improve. The urine culture was negative.



own.

removed from her urine (serum uric acid 45.6 mg/dl), why would allow the bladder level is not completely do some weird things The urine retention the presenting hind problems (thanks Dr. evidence of neurologic CT (thanks Dr. MRI is a much better however, the small size

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The shell has less of an odor, little to no progression of sloughing epithelium, and perhaps some re-growth of epithelium on the marginal scutes. A large pice of keratin was removed the the epithelium sampled for aerobic and fungal culture. IDEXX grew; *Morganella morganii*, *Shewanella* sp., and an *Enterococcus*. The *Morganella* was resistant to ceftazadime and the isolates sensitive to amikacin among many others. The improvements are associated with discontinuation of

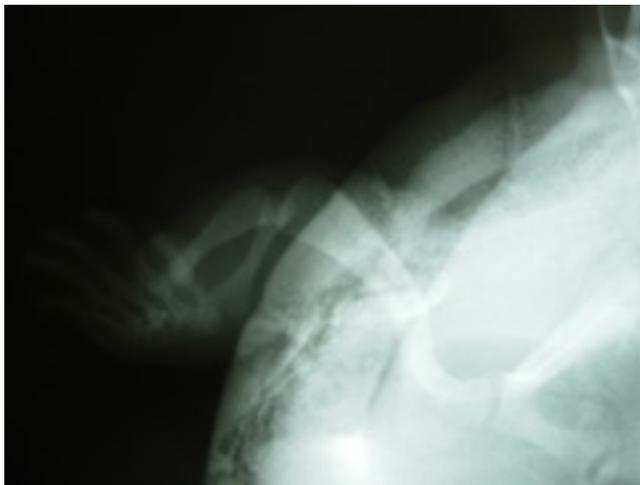




ceftazadime and instituting amikacin therapy [5 mg/kg IM once, followed by 2.5 mg/kg IM q 3 day (front half of the body)]. SSD is now only used to block sunlight on the exposed bone while basking (1-2 hours each sunny day) then is washed off followed by a 5 min. dilute betadyne soak, and then the shell covered with a thin layer of muricin®.

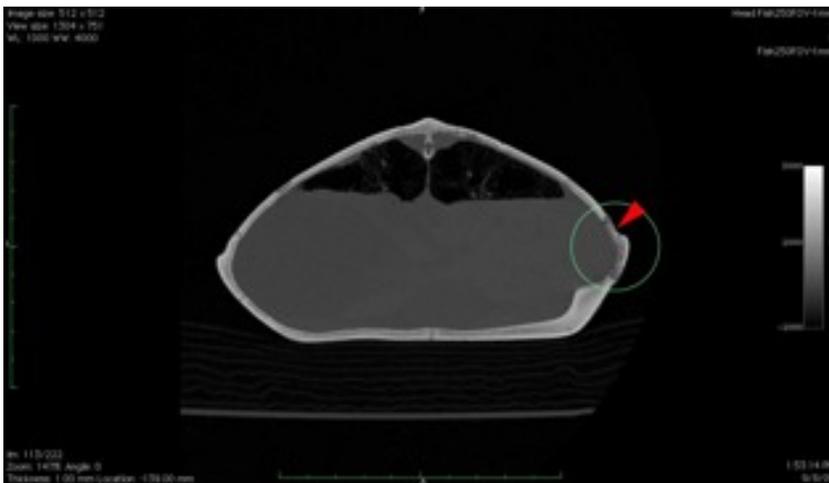
We had another swim test and Patty did well but failed the deep end test, her water level was raised to 8” and we will test her again in a month.

The barium finally passed after over 20 days and her appetite is good and she has regained all of her lost weight.



Her major problem now is the loss of bone density (osteonecrosis) which now can even be seen on radiographs as well as the CT. Dr. Dennison’s concerns are distinguishing between osteomyelitis and avascular necrosis. While a nuclear study and surgical dermal bone biopsy and culture are indicated, we have made some medical management adjustment and will monitor her progress. Her lung tissue was normal on the scan.

All of Patty’s problems can still be related to delayed effects of the thermal injury and unique nature of the turtle’s shell and dermal bone, and we are far from being out of the woods’ yet, but some positive changes this week have me a little more optimistic.



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