Equine trauma

An Arabian gelding 11 years old, acted a bit too excited in the stable and wounded himself on a door handle on the right barrel. Noean is a healthy horse and has no medical history.

The laceration is almost Y-shaped with a skin flap of ±8x7cm and 0.5-1 cm deep with slightly rough edges. The wound bed is red and shows healthy tissue. Immediately after the injury, the veterinarian flushed the wound thoroughly and closed it partially with staples. The wound was left open at the bottom to enable the fluids to drain.

Product: L-Mesitran ointment
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Method
The wound was cleansed with tap water (2x/dy). Thereafter the honey based ointment was applied on the wound and the wound edges. The wound was covered with regular gauze, and absorbent pad and a blanket for fixation.

Results
After one week the autolytic debridement of the wound removed the skin flap. The veterinarian removed the remaining sutures. The now triangular wound measured 8cm on all sides and showed a red woundbed with a little spot of necrosis and some fibrine (fig. 4).

When the wound became smaller (8x3cm) and superficial, the wound was only rinsed with a clean wet gauze 1x/dy, however the wound was still treated 2x/dy with honey ointment. The animal had no stable rest and was offered controlled motion on a lunge line. The horse was allowed only under supervision in the meadow, to avoid rolling which could damage the wound. Necrosis and fibrinous slough disappeared rapidly, revealing granulation tissue, which quickly led to re-epithelialization.

When the wound was almost closed the owner started to ride again. A silicone dressing (Mepilex, Mölnlycke) was used for protection of the delicate new tissue. The wound completely healed within 2 months without scarring or adverse events (fig 9).

Discussion
There are a number of factors associated with an increased risk of traumatic injury, e.g. breed, duration of ownership and stabling conditions (Owen, 2011). After the trauma has been dealt with, scarring is common (Mespoulhès-Rivière, 2008), but unwanted by most owners. The lack of suitable donor skin prevents the veterinarian surgeon to make good grafts with minimal scarring. If successful at all (Theoret, 2009). In this case it is therefore remarkable that a 56cm² barrel injury healed without scarring, per secundam with only the use of a honey based ointment.

Declaration
This study was done independently. L-Mesitran Ointment Lot.10041302/1. Exp. Date 2013-4 was used for the treatment.

References