

## Dr. Lisa Parshley's Case of the Month: Medical Therapy for Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Canine Nose

Gracie is a 10- year old, 42 kg, spayed, female Chocolate Labrador Retriever who presented with nasal squamous cell carcinoma (SCC). Diagnosis of SCC had been made via rhinoscopy. At the time of rhinoscopy, the tumor was partially obstructing the airway. The tumor involved

a majority of the rostral aspect of the left nasal passage, a small aspect of the right rostral nasal passage (medial), and a large portion of the left nasal planum. In order to relieve the airway obstruction, the tumor was debulked, in part using diode laser. One month later, Gracie was again having difficulty sleeping and diminished exercise tolerance. Financial constraints prevented the use of more traditional therapies such as radiation therapy and chemotherapy. Since there was not a surgical option, the client's primary therapeutic goal was to keep Gracie comfortable using medical therapy. Therefore, alternative therapies fitting the client's needs and expectations were developed. On physical examination Gracie had loud upper airway sounds, an ulcerative, raised, red lesion of the left nasal planum (figure 1) and no airflow through the left nostril and minimal airflow through the right nostril. The remainder of the physical was unremarkable.

After discussing the possible therapeutic options available, it was decided that we would administer a series of three pamidronate (bisphosphonate) injections and prescribe Deramaxx. Deramaxx was chosen to provide both pain management **AND** its ability to inhibit cyclooxygenase II (COXII). COX II may be associated with progression of SCC in dogs. Thus, inhibition of this enzyme might help reduce Gracie's tumor growth and progression. Pamidronate was selected based on recently published research suggesting that it may have some anti-angiogenic effects in SCC.

When Gracie's presented for her last dose of pamidronate, she was no longer having difficulty sleeping or playing. On physical examination airflow through the left nostril was strong and the nasal planum mass was being replaced by healthy appearing granulation tissue (**figure #2**). Gracie's long-range plan includes weekly oral bisphosphonate therapy at home, continued use of deramaxx, and bimonthly monitoring for the next six months.

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Figure #1

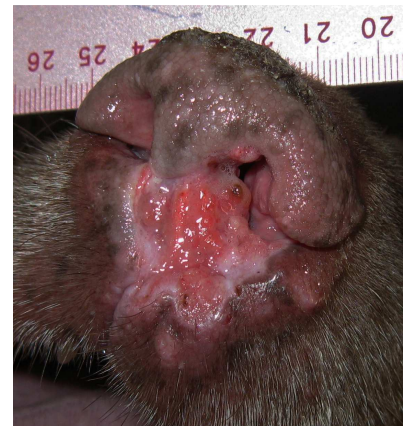


Figure #2