

Case of the Month

January 2007

History and Signalment: A 7yr dachshund was referred for a chronic swelling below her right eye. The swelling had been getting progressively worse, despite antibiotic therapy. Fluid from the mass was collected from the referring veterinarian and submitted for cytology which revealed pyogranulomatous inflammation.

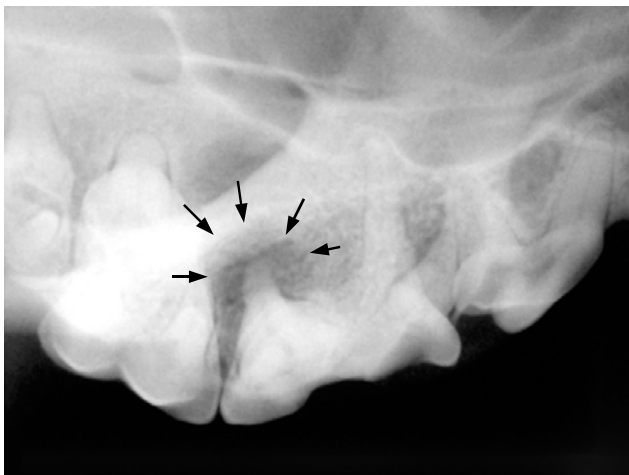
Physical Exam/Diagnosis: The physical exam showed a draining tract below the right eye with a mild swelling. The oral exam showed a complicated crown-root fracture of the right maxillary fourth premolar. An intraoral radiograph was taken with a sterile gutta percha point inserted into the draining tract. The radiograph confirmed that the draining tract originated from the distal root of the fractured tooth.



Photo of swelling and draining tract.



Photo showing fractured tooth.



Radiograph of affected tooth. A lytic area can be seen around the distal root of 4th premolar.



Photo showing a gutta percha point in draining tract.



Radiograph showing termination of gutta percha point.



Photo of sutured extraction site.



Final radiograph after extraction.

Treatment: The options for treatment were root canal therapy or extraction. The client elected to extract the fractured tooth. The tooth was sectioned with a high-speed bur after a buccal gingival flap was created. The three-rooted tooth was extracted without any complications. The granulation tissue left behind was removed. A diamond bur was used to smooth the rough edges of the alveolar bone and the extraction site was sutured without any tension. Oral antibiotics and pain medication were dispensed.

Bottom Line: Always perform intraoral radiographs to rule out oral pathology when dealing with ocular or facial swellings even if the teeth appear normal.

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