

## Temporary Palate Guard For Bleeding Palatine Ulcers In Three Cats

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Palatine ulceration is a condition that can cause severe anaemia and typically occurs in excessively grooming cats with underlying pruritic skin disease.<sup>1,2</sup> Repetitive trauma by abrasive lingual papillae can persistently erode palatine mucosa leading to haemorrhage.<sup>3</sup>

Three adult cats presented with clinical signs of severe anaemia, oral bleeding and a history of chronic pruritus due to flea allergy dermatitis (two cases), and ulcerative stomatitis (one case). Oral exam revealed bleeding palatine ulcers in all cases. Each cat required blood transfusion and underwent surgical implantation of a customised temporary palatal guard. Guards were made from either radiographic film (two cases) or an acetate sheet (one case). Each cat received varied medical treatment following surgery, including antibiotic therapy and immunosuppressive medication. Complete resolution was observed in all three cases following surgical placement of a temporary palatal guard in conjunction with underlying pruritic disease management.

When a palatine ulcer is refractory to medical management, or the anaemia is severe, surgical intervention is warranted. Traditional surgical techniques create variably sized surgical wounds that can potentially dehisce, risk further haemorrhage or prolong inappetence. Placement of a temporary customised palatal guard is a novel surgical technique for treating palatine ulcers that does not require isolation of the palatine artery, involves minimal tissue handling, provides immediate control of oral pain, encourages normal dietary appetite, and prevents ongoing trauma. This case series presents an alternative option for managing life-threatening feline palatine ulcers, however, addressing underlying pruritic disease is essential for appropriate management post-operatively regardless of surgical technique.

### References

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