Once-a-Day Treatment for Pyoderma

One of the most common skin diseases of dogs is pyoderma caused by staphylococcus organisms. The most frequent organism is *Staphylococcus intermedius*, which is isolated in about 90% of cases. Disruption of the skin surface allows resident flora, such as staphylococci, to become pathogenic, thereby increasing susceptibility to pyoderma.*Proteus* species, *Pseudomonas* species, and *Escherichia coli* are frequent secondary invaders. The study reported in this article was designed to compare the clinical efficacy of cefpodoxime proxetil with cephalexin in treating canine pyoderma under field conditions. Cefpodoxime proxetil is a prodrug that is deesterified in vivo to release the active moiety, cefpodoxime free acid. Cefpodoxime interferes with cell wall synthesis and is bactericidal. Thirteen veterinary hospitals enrolled privately owned dogs of various breeds. Treatment groups were randomly assigned, and dose was based on the animal’s weight. Examining veterinarians were blinded to treatment allocation. A total of 129 dogs was included in the analysis of efficacy. A 28-day course of cefpodoxime proxetil once a day was given to 48 dogs, and an additional 14-day course was given to 15 dogs. Cephalexin was given twice a day for 28 days to 55 dogs, and the extended 14-day therapy was given to 11 dogs. At the final clinical assessment, 96.8% of the dogs treated with cefpodoxime proxetil and 93.0% of the dogs treated with cephalexin were considered treatment successes. *Study by Pfizer Animal Health*

**COMMENTARY:** Pet owner compliance is always a concern in treating infectious diseases, and most veterinarians believe compliance is a major cause of antiinfective therapy failure. Studies in humans taking medications show that once-a-day dosing improves compliance. Pet owners prefer once-a-day dosing as well. It is good to know that the efficacy is the same for both of these antibiotics, and veterinarians can confidently recommend once-daily cefpodoxime proxetil.—*Patricia Thomblison, DVM, MS*