

Ulcerative posthitis (“pizzle rot”)

A PowerPage Presented By



Ulcerative posthitis is a condition seen most commonly in the ovine but occasionally in caprine and bovine animals. It is most common in castrated males. An analogous condition is uncommonly seen in females that are not groomed or kept clean around the vulva/perineum (ulcerative vulvitis). The condition is painful and can lead to difficulty urinating and breeding. It should be easily recognized if it shows up on a board exam and you should be able to identify the predisposing factors to make appropriate recommendations. This PowerPage briefly reviews the important predisposing factors, clinical signs, and management recommendations.

Pathophysiology

- Etiologic agent- *Corynebacterium renale*
 - Gram-positive, urease producing bacteria
 - Hydrolyzes urea to ammonia which causes irritation to the penis and surrounding skin and tissue
- Dietary factors
 - **High protein diet**
 - If protein levels in the diet are above 16%, urine can contain >4% urea
- **Ulcerations**
 - If the skin is ulcerated, *C. renale* can infect the ulcer and form crusts which may block the opening to the prepuce
- **Excess hair**
 - Retains urine near the skin

Clinical Signs and Management

- Clinical Signs
 - Preputial (or vulvar) swelling and ulceration
 - Urine scald of perineal skin
- Treatment and management
 - Remove wool around the area
 - Remove any necrotic tissue
 - Penicillins or cephalosporins are effective against *C. renale*
 - Can also use topical bacitracin or copper sulfate
 - Do not feed a high protein diet
 - Use clean straw bedding
 - Do not breed until ulcers have healed (venereal transmission is thought to be possible)