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Combination treatment of a pseudomonad abscess in a western black-tailed rattlesnake *Crotalus molossus molossus*

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A three-year-old male western black-tailed rattlesnake (*Crotalus molossus molossus*), which was refusing food and losing weight was presented with a swelling on the right side of the head below the eye. An abscess was suspected and treatment with subcutaneous enrofloxacin was started immediately. After identification of the causative agents as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia*, and following susceptibility testing, enrofloxacin treatment was replaced with marbofloxacin, intralesional gentamicin/betamethasone treatment and gentamicin administered subcutaneously at an increased terrarium temperature of 35 °C. Seven days later, the formed pus plug was debrided and a combined marbofloxacin/gentamicin/betamethasone treatment was continued for an additional seven days. The swelling disappeared. Marbofloxacin was continued for ten more days, after which time microbiology tests were negative for *S. maltophilia* and *P. aeruginosa*. The animal began to eat and gain body weight. To our knowledge, this is the first report of an abscess treatment in a rattlesnake and the first to demonstrate the effective treatment of a *S. maltophilia*-induced infection with a combination of marbofloxacin and gentamicin.

Keywords:

abscess; marbofloxacin; gentamicin; *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*; *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia*

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