

## **Pseudomonas Otitis**

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### **Key Principles for Successful Resolution of Pseudomonas Otitis:**

1. This is an opportunistic pathogen that generally occurs in dogs that have had recurrent otitis.
2. Pseudomonas incites a strong inflammatory response in the host. This exuberant inflammatory response leads to pain and ulceration of the ear canal. The inflammation is part of the pathology. Administration of topical and sometimes oral steroids is critical to resolution of the infection.
3. Pseudomonas will sometimes show in vitro susceptibility to gentamicin. However, in vivo, gentamicin is rarely effective.
4. Pseudomonas is hard to kill! Oral antibiotics alone will rarely achieve therapeutic concentrations in the canal lumen. Topical antibiotics are critical to resolution of infection.
5. Pseudomonas is hard to kill! Owners need to flush the ear canal twice per day at home prior to administering topical medications. Flushing removes organic debris that harbors bacteria and inactivates antibiotics. Flushing with Triz EDTA makes the Pseudomonas more susceptible to the antibiotics.
6. Pseudomonas generally takes 6 weeks of intense topical therapy to resolve. If the infection has not resolved within this 6 week time frame, then a myringotomy and bulla flush is usually indicated.
7. The ear infection will eventually return if an ear maintenance plan is not instituted.