

MANAGING RHINO EMERGENCIES

Veterinarians presented with a recumbent opioid immobilized rhino with traumatic horn removal: **following stabilization, wound treatment procedure outlined**

Primary and secondary goals achieved:

- Patient stabilized (O₂ and fluids)
- Systemic treatment given
- Positional issues addressed with relief of any pressure or crush injuries
- Blood taken

- Mandible fracture
- Long bone fracture
- Severe trauma to face, low cut
- Severed gastrocnemius tendon (bilateral)
- Prolonged recumbency > 2 hours after reversal
- Penetrating deep abd wounds

Facial wound evaluation and treatment

Prognosis fair to good

Prognosis poor

Euthanasia

Proceed with treatment

Facial wound evaluation and treatment: process

1. Stop any haemorrhage!

2. Measure the wound with a tape measure or ruler, take several photographs

3. A local infra-orbital block with Lignocaine[®] (+ morphine) can be performed. 20ml of Lignocaine (1%) placed at each site.

4. Use water to clean the wound, avoid hydrogen peroxide, chlorhexadine and acriflavine glycerine. Do not cover wound with stockholm tar

5. The wound needs covering both for protection and to promote healing. Use of a Zinc-Alginate dressing (Curasorb[®], Covidien[®]) is recommended, the dressing forms a gel covering the defect. Added effects include antibacterial properties and the promotion of haemostasis. The product needs to be worked into the paranasal sinuses, if they are exposed

6. It is essential to keep the wound covered and this can be challenging. Bandages can be used to keep the dressing in place and sutured to the nasal skin, alternatively fiberglass casting material can be used and sutured to the nasal skin. If the rhino recovers, the dressing and wound will need to be re-examined in 48 hours



Clean and debride wound



- Other wound treatment:
- Water!
 - Flamazine[®], L-Mesitran[®], F10[®]
 - Kerlix AMD[®] bandage

Check the eyes! Prolonged recumbency may result in damage

White rhino weight=1800-2000kg

Black rhino weight=800-1200kg

Recovery: sternal, Naltrexone 100mg IV