

## Ophthalmology Snapshot

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### History

An eight-year old, male Shih Tzu was presented with a chief complaint of left eye blepharospasm. From history taking, the dog had received topical triple antibiotic for two weeks to treat red eye. However, red eye remained while the dog

developed ocular pain and epiphora.

From ophthalmic examinations; STT 1 was 21 mm wetness. This left eye had menace response, dazzle reflex, pupillary light response and palpebral reflex. Fluorescein staining test was positive; diameter of approximately 5 mm at the center of the cornea.



**Figure 1** Photograph of the left eye of the dog.  
(For better quality of photographs, please visit the TJVM website)

### Question

Give ophthalmic diagnosis?

Please turn to next page for the answer.

**Answer**

Refractory superficial keratitis

(Superficial chronic corneal epithelial defects; SCCEDs, Canine indolent ulcer, Recurrent epithelial erosion, Boxer ulcer, Rodent ulcer, Slow healing ulcer

**Comments**

This type of superficial corneal ulcer has been called by several names (as above). Even though it is originally specific in Boxer but in fact, it actually occurs in many dog breeds. It is considered complicated corneal ulcer because it fails to completely heal within one week. It has less tendency to progress in depth however, it tends to spread over the entire corneal surface. Typical characteristic of this ulcer is mild corneal edema in association with none or minimal neovascularization. Many dogs have ocular pain

shown as blepharospasm and frequent protrusion of third eyelid.

Because stromal-epithelial adhesion is weak, epithelium is unable to adhere to the underlying stroma. Marginal lip of epithelium or overhanging epithelium is usually identified with cotton applicator from gentle rubbing on the anesthetized cornea. Positive corneal fluorescein staining dye at the wound lip will facilitate identification of this specific ulcer.

**Reference**

Peiffer RL and Low M, 2013. "Canine indolent ulcers (SCCEDs-Superficial chronic corneal epithelium defects)" [Online]. Available: <http://www.vetcares.com>. Center for animal referral cares and emergency services. Accessed April 2, 2013.

Martin CL, 2013. Cornea and sclera. In: Ophthalmic disease in veterinary medicine. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. London: Manson publishing 266-268