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was no improvement surgical intervention was opted for.

Anesthesia and surgery: The animal was sedated with Xylazine hydrochloride (200mg) and Ketamine hydrochloride (400mg) combination using a blowpipe. The lion showed vomition initially and was positioned in lateral recumbency. The site of bleeding was identified on labial surface of lower lip. It was prepared for surgery. The bleeding points were identified. Ligatures at anterior and posterior aspects of the bleeding points corresponding to the direction of labial artery were applied using 1/0 chromic catgut (Image 1*). To help vasoconstriction Adrenaline was applied locally. After ensuring proper haemostasis Tincture Benzoin seal was applied to stop haemorrhage.

Treatment: The lion was given Ringer’s lactate-1lt i/v along with 5ml Dexamethasone to combat fluid loss during sedation and Chromostat* 4ml was given i/m. Electrolytes, Glucose and B-Complex vitamins were given orally along with drinking water for five days. The ligated areas were dressed with Betadine spray for five days. The animal was fed regular diet without any complication.

Conclusion: Xylazine and Ketamine combinations produce satisfactory anesthesia in wild animals for performing different surgical operations. Schulman et al. (2003) performed surgical excision of cutaneous fibro papilloma in a mountain lion. In this case the bleeding could have happened due to small pointed object. The animal was in a habit of rubbing its face against the bars of the cage and other hard objects. This might have resulted in this condition and repeated trauma lead to extensive haemorrhage.

As the lion was a rescued animal, kept in dark conditions (without power supply), wild and aggressive in nature, its occurrence and treatment attracted special interest. It is advised to avoid iron traps and pegs (in any form) to prevent accidental injuries and rubbing.

REFERENCE

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* see Image 1 in the web supplement at www.zoosprint.org