

*“Pearls”  
of  
Veterinary Medicine*



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**Critical Care – Products**

**Vetigel for rapid hemostasis**

**Overview:** Vetigel is a hemostatic gel made from N-acetyl-D-glucosamine and sodium alginate, biopolymers derived from algae and fungi. These complementary polysaccharides—one positively charged and the other negatively charged—form strong ionic crosslinks (a "Lego block effect") to create an effective mechanical barrier against bleeding. Its nonporous structure prevents integration with the clot, enabling easy removal without disturbing the fibrin patch. The gel is naturally absorbed within weeks. The human equivalent, Traumagel, has recently received FDA clearance for external use.

**Key Uses:** “Vetigel can be used on a variety of procedures, including but not limited to: dental extractions, oral mass removals, abdominal and thoracic mass removals, soft organ biopsies, enucleations, spays & neuters, amputations, venous & arterial bleeds, cholecystectomies, catheterization, lacerations, and ear & tail docking.” Vetigel has no reported infections in over 60,000 animal cases. Suitable for both external and implantable use, it can be effectively applied to deep wounds, even when the bleeding source is not visible, by using pressure to secure the gel in place.

**Clinical Benefits:** Studies show Vetigel reduces: Blood loss by **50%** in multi-tooth extractions and **30%** in amputations and enucleations; reduces surgical time by

**17%** for extractions and **22–25%** for amputations and enucleations; and reduces procedure costs overall.

**Application Guidelines:** Prime the syringe before use. Administer with the syringe **perpendicular** to the wound, starting deep and withdrawing as the site fills (gel should “mushroom” over surrounding tissue). At the end of application, shear the gel toward adjacent tissue in a wiping motion to prevent the gel from adhering to the syringe tip. Use **wet gauze** to maintain the mechanical seal.

For dental sockets, slowly withdraw the syringe as the socket fills. For bleeding nails or beaks, apply Vetigel to sterile wet gauze and hold over the area. In enucleations, remove most of the gel before closure.

**Additional Tips:** If bleeding persists, apply more gel over the previous layer. Do not touch Vetigel with gloves or spread it with instruments.

**Cost and Packaging:** **2 packs of 5 ml syringes:** list \$103.87; **5 packs of 5 ml syringes:** \$230.81; **4 precision tips and 2 adapters:** \$23.09. Shelf life: **18 months** at room temperature.

**Note: Not recommended for use in horses** due to pyrogen sensitivity.

Download Vetigel “[How to Use Detailer](#)” for a visual guide, brief instructions for [common procedures](#), [Top Tips](#) and [here](#) for videos of a variety of applications.

For more details, see [Vetigel.com](#).

[R. D. Glatter, MD & John Landolina, Medscape, 11/26/2024 CapRep \(2024\):43\(2\):1](#)



**Geriatrics – Musculoskeletal– One Health**

**Fortetropin improves muscle mass**

As humans age, muscle mass declines by 3-5% per decade after age 30, with a sharper loss after age 60. Strategies like increasing protein intake and performing resistance exercises can help mitigate this decline. Aging also raises myostatin levels, a protein that inhibits muscle growth by