

Options for Treating Myiasis in Turtles

- Use tweezers / forceps to remove surface maggots and/or flush with very dilute solution of 5% Betadine® Solution (1 part Betadine® to 10 parts sterile water) until all maggots are removed.
- Smother surface with SSD (silver sulfadiazine); maggots will collect in the cream as they seek air. Flush out SSD with sterile water or remove SSD with Q-tips wetted with sterile water every few hours, then repeat process until no more maggots are evident.
- Finely crush up one 11.4 mg tablet of Capstar®. Add to 10cc sterile water and flush infested wounds. Allow to sit for no more than several minutes then flush with sterile water. It can also be given orally at same dilution, administered at 1cc/kg body weight.

When flushing away maggots from wounds care must be taken not to drive contaminants and maggots deeper into the body. Use as little water as possible to achieve results, be aware of the strength of the spray, and angle the turtle so the fluid falls away from the body.

Nonsterile water can be used to flush infested tissue where there is no concern of fluid entering the body cavity. It is preferable to use slightly warmed fluid for flushing.

