



# Case study:

## Chronic wound on lateral metatarsal area

- Patient:** 6 year old male GSD.
- History:** The patient presented with a chronic open wound on the medial metatarsal area. The owner was unsure of the cause and had been treating the wound for the past week and a half himself with topical ointments. According to the owner, the wound was not healing at all and the dog was starting to lick the area affected.
- Treatment:** Light therapy was done for 5 minutes, once a day for a week. The dog was only started on concurrent Cephalexin antibiotics and anti-inflammatories 2 days after light therapy had commenced. X-rays revealed an underlying instability, with ankylosis of the joint starting to form, as being the primary underlying cause of the pain and subsequent licking of the affected area.
- Outcome:** Note the drastic change in appearance of the wound after only 1 light therapy treatment and without any antibiotics, anti-inflammatory drugs or wound dressings. A collar was never needed as the patient stopped licking. The patient was sent home with anti-inflammatory drugs.



**Presenting wound**



**12 hours after the first light therapy session  
No other medication was given**



**3 days and 3 light therapy sessions later**



**X-ray of affected area showing the  
underlying instability and ankylosis formation**