

MY (CURRENT) THOUGHTS ON SANOS™ VETERINARY DENTAL SEALANT

[AllAccem, Inc.](#), of San Carlos, California has developed a product known as [Sanos™](#) which has recently become available in Canada and so I am starting to get questions about it.

As I am involved with [HealthyMouth, LLC](#), one might think that I would lack objectivity when discussing other dental products. However, I do not see Sanos™ as a competitive product, but would hope that it might well be a complimentary one. On the other hand, I have never been an early adopter and my mind is still definitely not made up one way or the other when it comes to Sanos™.

I am not going to discuss the technique for applying Sanos™ nor its supposed mechanism of action. I will let you find that out on the Sanos™ website or from the company representatives.

I was first introduced to Sanos™ in the exhibit hall of the [Veterinary Dental Forum](#) a few years ago. The people at the booth were sales reps and they really could not answer any of my questions. They did not know how the product worked and they could show me no research. I moved on.



The next year, the inventor of the product was at the booth at the Veterinary Dental Forum. A polymer chemist with a PhD and many inventions to his credit, he seemed a credible sort. He was still a little vague about how a foreign substance placed into the gingival sulcus would not cause an inflammatory reaction or would not simply be washed/sloughed out in a matter of days. He indicated that some research was showing that the product has a beneficial effect on inhibiting plaque formation following a professional dental cleaning. But since the product was not available in Canada, I figured I did not really need to dig too deep. I have been keeping a casual eye on the product since.

In November of 2011, Sanos™ was awarded the [VOHC](#) Seals of Acceptance for helping to control plaque and tartar. On the face of it, that looks like it should be a ringing endorsement. I am always going on about how important VOHC acceptance is (see [VOHC SEAL.pdf](#)). Yet I still have some reservations.

The [VOHC protocols](#) were designed for products that are intended to be used daily (diets, treats, water additives, tooth pastes...). The theory is that if a product inhibits plaque and/or tartar accumulation over a period of 4 weeks when used daily, then it can be expected to continue to have this effect as long as the owners continue to use the product daily. BUT, Sanos™ is applied once, in hospital, at the end of a [COHAT](#) and (according to the company) will have activity for up to 6 months. The VOHC trial only confirmed that it had effect for the period of the trial but since there is no reapplication at home we really cannot know if there is demonstrable effect two months post-op, or three or six. Even if there is activity for six months as advertised, that would mean that the animal would need to have another COHAT and application every six months.

Another consideration; the instructions from AllAccem are that following the application of Sanos™, owners are to NOT brush the teeth or feed mechanically active diets/chews/treats as this would result in the removal of the product. Let's consider a top-flight owner who presents their animal for COHATs on an annual basis. With the application of Sanos™ the animal gets

(according to the claim), six months of protection and then goes the next six months without protection. Will these owners (who have not been brushing for the past six months) start brushing daily when the Sanos™ has worn off? Will they change diets at six months? I would expect not.

Third consideration is cost. Sanos™ comes in a single-patient package and comes with a not-insignificant price tag that would have to be added to the price of the procedure. So we have to ask if there is sufficient value to warrant the cost.

No single [product or strategy](#) (short of whole-mouth extraction) will prevent periodontal disease all by itself. Therefore, it is wise to employ multiple home plaque control strategies between COHATs (I brush my own teeth twice daily, floss daily and drink [healthymouth&mobility™](#)). A product that is intended to be used to the exclusion of the other plaque control strategies troubles me. Of course, since healthymouth™ products are not mechanically-active, they are the only other VOHC accepted plaque control products that could be used in conjunction with Sanos™. Never-the-less, in most cases, I would prefer owners brush and/or feed a mechanically active VOHC accepted plaque retardant diet along with using healthymouth™.

Some animals will simply not be candidates for tooth brushing. Some are lacking the chewing hardware necessary to manage a plaque-retardant diet or chew-treat or have dietary restrictions precluding their use. In these cases, Sanos™ might be worth combining with healthymouth™. But it would not be my first choice or default option and I would not want to rely on it alone.

One further thought is that no brushing program or even mechanically active plaque-control diet or chew treat reaches every nook and cranny. For a dog with a marked propensity for periodontal disease (a case where we want to do everything possible, employ every trick in the book), applying Sanos™ AND brushing AND feeding a mechanically active diet or chew treat might actually make sense. You apply the Sanos™ and it gets in between teeth and on the

lingual/palatal sides. Then the owners do what they can mechanically. This mechanical action will remove the Sanos™ from the surfaces reached but will leave it behind where the mechanical activity is not reaching, so those unreached areas still have some level of protection for at least some of the time between one COHAT and the next. Again, with the significant cost of Sanos™, this is not something I would do willy-nilly. It would have to be in specific situations and really, if a dog needs this level of intense care to keep the mouth healthy with teeth in place, I am inclined to [clean house](#) and not have to fight an uphill (and likely losing) battle.

As time goes by, my opinion may shift one way or the other. If it does, I will change this document to reflect that.

Sanos is available through VPCL.