

Specific Tests in Small Animal Dermatology

Ulcer



Figure 1-16A
Ulcer

Definition: Focal loss of epidermis with exposure of underlying dermis
Pathogenesis: Severe trauma and/or deep and severe inflammation

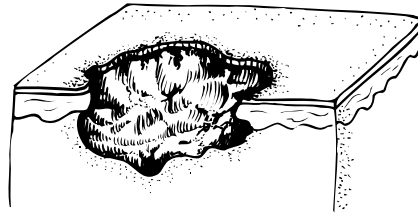


Figure 1-16B
Ulcer

Differential diagnoses: Various skin diseases associated with trauma such as infections and allergies, also immune-mediated diseases.

Lichenification



Figure 1-17A
Lichenification

Definition: Thickening and hardening of skin characterized by exaggerated superficial skin markings.
Pathogenesis: Chronic trauma such as friction or rubbing.

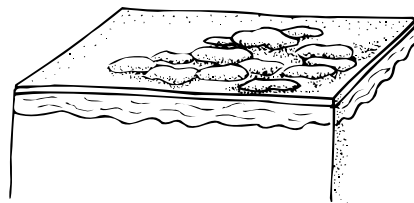


Figure 1-17B
Lichenification

Differential diagnoses: All chronic and pruritic skin diseases.

Cytology

Indications

Any pruritic, scaly, odoriferous, or alopecic animal should be evaluated for evidence of bacterial or fungal infection. Thus, cytology is indicated for almost all patients presented with skin disease. Skin scrapings, aspirations, impressions, ear swabs and tape preparations are different techniques to obtain cytologic samples.

- ✓ A superficial skin scraping is used in areas such as the interdigital skin where impression smears may be difficult to obtain. It is also used when the skin is normal, slightly moist, or greasy.
- ✓ An aspirated sample is useful in the evaluation of pustule content and intracutaneous or subcutaneous nodules.
- ✓ An impression smear is used when moist or oily skin with oozing or discharging lesions is evaluated.
- ✓ Ear swabs are used to evaluate ear canals.
- ✓ Dry scaly skin maybe evaluated by tape preparations. This technique is also frequently used in the interdigital area where impression smears may be difficult to obtain.

Technique

1. Skin scraping for cytology

- ✓ Affected skin is exposed and the surface of the skin scraped very gently and superficially with a scalpel blade in the direction of hair growth.
- ✓ The debris collected on the blade is applied to a slide and spread with the blade in a “buttering the bread” motion (Figure 1-18).

2. Aspiration of nodules

- ✓ Aspiration from nodules or abscesses is undertaken with a 12-ml syringe and a 22-ga needle.