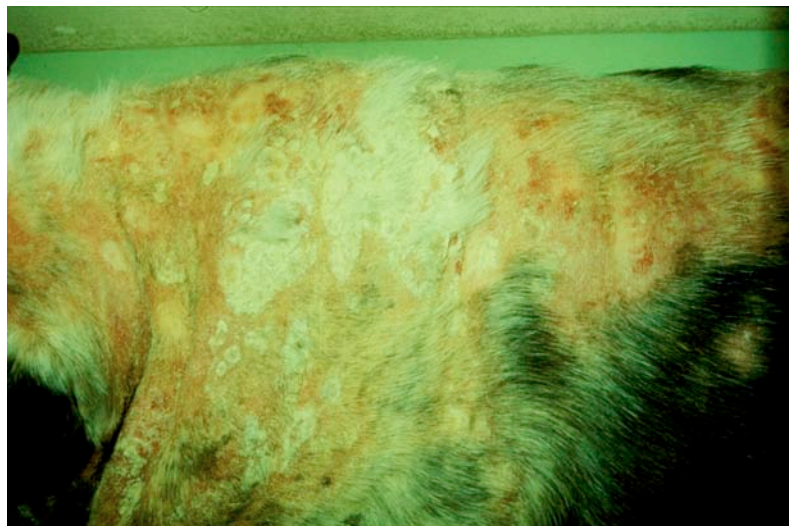


## Epitheliotrophic Lymphoma (Cutaneous T Cell Lymphoma, Mycosis Fungoides)

Epitheliotrophic lymphoma is a rare, cutaneous neoplasm of dogs and cats characterized by epidermotropic T lymphocytic infiltration of the skin. In the normal animal certain T lymphocytes express membrane receptors that ensure that they continuously migrate through the layers of the skin (dermis and epidermis). Epitheliotrophic lymphoma occurs when one, or several, clones of these cells become malignant. The reason for this malignant transformation is unknown.

The most common clinical presentation in both dogs and cats are plaque formations consisting of silvery-white scales. These lesions also cause the animal to itch. The condition may be non-responsive to systemic glucocorticoids such as prednisone. It is a disease of the older dog and cat and there is no breed or sex predisposition.



Diagnosis is confirmed on the basis of histopathologic examination of biopsy samples.

Unfortunately, prognosis of epitheliotrophic lymphoma is poor due to its refractory nature to treatment. Topical mechlorethamine hydrochloride (nitrogen mustard) dissolved in water or propylene glycol applied daily to lesions may induce temporary resolution. This drug should be used with extreme caution as it is carcinogenic (potential to cause cancer) and

a potent contact sensitizer. Informed consent and proper education is a must. The use of gloves is extremely important and all persons should avoid contact with treated areas.

Additional treatments that have been reported to temporarily resolve clinical symptoms include safflower oil or the retinoid isotretinoin (Accutane) both given orally.

The drug lomustine (CCNU) may also be tried as a sole treatment or in combination with other therapies. Complete remission generally occurs in 17% of cases and a partial response in 61% of cases with an average duration of 88 days. Side effects can occur including GI upset, liver toxicity, and bone marrow suppression. Bone marrow suppression can be life threatening so supervision by an oncologist is recommended.