

## Feline Idiopathic Ulcerative Dermatitis

Feline idiopathic ulcerative dermatosis is a rare disease of cats. Cats suffer from non-healing skin ulcers generally observed on the neck and back between the shoulder blades. The cause and mechanism of the disease is unknown.

The lesion consists of a single ulcer around 2-5 cm in size. It is clearly defined with a firm elevated border that is swollen and red. The lesion is often exacerbated due to scratching by the animal.

Clinical appearance of the lesion and its location on the animal can suggest a diagnosis of feline idiopathic ulcerative dermatosis. A thorough history is also helpful. The diagnosis is further supported by microscopic examination of biopsy samples taken from a lesion.



The disease can be difficult to manage due to its refractory nature to treatment. Most lesions are too large for surgical removal and unfortunately, most lesions return if surgical removal was performed. Many different approaches to treatment have been tried using oral medications and topical preparations. Oral medications include cyclosporine, pentoxifyline, clomipramine, and steroids such as dexamethasone and methylprednisolone. Silver sulfadiazine applied topically to the lesion is

another treatment option. It is also helpful to have the lesion covered with a loose bandage or baby T-shirt.