

Lupoid Onchodystrophy

Lupoid onychodystrophy is a condition caused by abnormal claw formation. The most common clinical presentation is called onychomadesis or sloughing of claws. Many if not all claws are affected after 4-8 months of initial symptoms. After sloughing dry, brittle, misshapen nail plates grow. If untreated resloughing may occur. Nail sloughing may cause pronounced pain in animals.

Diagnosis is made by history and clinical findings. Diagnosis can be confirmed by biopsy but the animal has to be anesthetized and a nail removed.



There are several treatment options for lupoid onychodystrophy. Some cases are given a combination of the antibiotic tetracycline and niacinamide. Systemic glucocorticoids at anti-inflammatory or moderate immunosuppressive doses have also been used for treatment of this disease. Omega fatty acids including omega-3 and omega-6 may be helpful in the long-term management of this disease.

An electric disc-sanding tool should be used to wear down the nails as it does not split or crack the nails as most nail trimmers do.

Surgical removal of affected digits can be performed if the animals do not respond to the tetracycline, niacinamide, and fatty acids.

