

Mucocutaneous Pyoderma

DEFINITION

Mucocutaneous pyoderma is a syndrome resulting from bacterial infection of the skin junctions to the lips, nose, eyelids, anus, vulva, or prepuce.

ETIOLOGY AND PATHOGENESIS

The pathogenesis of mucocutaneous pyoderma has not been determined. However, response to systemic and topical antibacterial therapy would indicate the role of bacterial infection in the etiology.

CLINICAL FEATURES

Lesions are most frequently noted in the lips and perioral skin but can also be located in the perianal area, planum nasale, eyelids, vulva, and prepuce. They are characterized by erythema, swelling, and crusts which are bilaterally symmetrical (they may be unilateral in the nose). Fissuring, erosions, ulceration, and crusts may occur in severe cases. Depigmentation often occurs and may be prominent. Lesions may be painful and self trauma can occur. Age or sex predilections have not been noted, but German Shepherd Dogs and crosses thereof may be predisposed.

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSES

- Lipfold pyoderma (However, lesions of lipfold pyoderma are generally located in the triangular fold on either side of the lower lip)
- Cutaneous (discoid) lupus erythematosus
- Allergies (If lesions are confined to the lips)
- Zinc-responsive dermatosis
- Early lesions of generic dog food dermatosis
- Localized demodicosis (With demodicosis lesions usually involve the haired skin)
- Yeast dermatitis
- Cancer of the skin (Epitheliotropic lymphoma)

DIAGNOSTIC TESTS

Diagnosis is based on history, clinical findings, ruling out other differentials and response to antibiotic therapy.



MANAGEMENT

- Soak off exudates or crusts with warm water or a solution containing chlorhexidine
- Apply topical antibiotics (such as mupirocin, polymyxin B, fucidic acid ect.) every 12 hours until healed, then three days per week or as needed for control
- If lesions are severe or do not respond to the mupirocin ointment, systemic antibacterial therapy based on culture and sensitivity. Treatment may need to be continued on two or three consecutive days per week for control.

KEY POINT

- Be aware that this is a condition that is generally controlled but not cured.