

# Topical Corticosteroid Reaction

Topical corticosteroid reaction occurs when topically applied potent corticosteroid medications cause thinning of the skin and comedone (blackhead) formation. Many cases are associated with products containing triamcinolone and betamethasone but a wide variety of corticosteroid-containing sprays, creams, gels, and ointments may cause the reaction.

Clinical lesions appear as focal areas of thin, almost translucent skin with prominent comedones (blackheads). Affected skin may also have varying degrees of erythema (redness) and hyperpigmentation. Chronic lesions may become eroded and ulcerated. Scarring may also be evident upon clinical examination. Most lesions are generally found in the armpits and belly since application to these areas is easier than applying to densely haired areas.

Topical corticosteroid reaction can be diagnosed based on a thorough history and clinical findings on physical exam.

Owners should immediately discontinue the application of topical corticosteroids. It may take several months once ceasing application for the skin to return to a normal appearance.

