Feline mange: Diagnosis and therapeutic management of *Notoedres cati*

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**Abstract**

Cats infected with *Notoedres cati*, a mite that causes feline mange resulting in severe pruritus, itching, and crust development over the face, back, and legs, were successfully treated using a combination of Ivermectin injections, Demoscanil lotion (Lime Sulphur Dip), and additional medications. The treatment resulted in full clinical recovery and the elimination of mites in skin scrapings. This article aims to discuss the management of feline mange caused by *Notoedres cati*, highlighting the use of Ivermectin and Lime Sulphur dip.

**Keywords:** *Notoedres cati*, Feline mange, Pruritis, Ivermectin, Demoscanil

**Introduction**

Notoedric mange is a highly contagious dermatological condition in felids caused by the obligate sarcoptic mite, *Notoedres cati*, which can also infest humans and other animals (Foley et al., 2016) [1]. The condition is characterized by alopecia, pruritus, and crusty lesions on the head, neck, feet, ears, and area around the eyes (Priyanka et al., 2016) [4].

**Materials and Methods**

Twelve cats, aged between 8 months and 1.5 years of either sex, were presented at the Veterinary Clinical Complex, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad with acute allergic pruritus, hair loss on the face, neck, and forelimbs. Physical examination revealed alopecia, irritating crust development, and severe pruritus, with lesions on the cheeks, legs, and ear margin. The affected skin exhibited hair loss, thickened leathery wrinkles, and hyperkeratinized skin (Sivajyoti et al., 2015) [6]. One of the nine-month-old kittens had extensive sores covering its entire body.

The pruritus and hair loss pattern in these cats were indicative of notoedric mange. In present case, Skin scrapings from the affected areas were examined under a 40X microscope after treatment with 10% KOH for clearance (Fig. 1) (Soulsby, 1968) [7].

![Microscopic images of Notoedres cati](image1)

**Fig 1:** Microscopic images of *Notoedres cati*
Results and Discussion
Out of the 12 cats evaluated, eight were found to be infested with Notoedres mites. Initially, the lesions were predominantly observed on the face and its surrounding area, which later spread to the back and legs (Fig 2, 3, 4). Skin Scraping examination confirmed the presence of *Notoedres cati* mites, consistent with the clinical signs observed. The mites were identified based on Walker's (1994) recommendation, which differentiated *Notoedres cati* from *Sarcoptes* based on the smaller, more circular anus on the dorsum.

Upon confirmation of the diagnosis, the cats were immediately treated with subcutaneous injections of Ivermectin (Neomec® injection, Intas Pharmaceuticals, India) at a dosage of 200mcg/kg body weight every 14 days. Additional medications, including injections of Chlorpheniramine maleate (Histanil® VETINDIA Pharmaceuticals Ltd.) at the rate of 1mg/kg body weight (0.2 ml SC every 14 days) and Tribivet (Intas Pharmaceuticals, India) containing vitamin B1, B6, B12 (0.2 ml IM once a week), were administered. A Lime Sulphur dip (Demoscanil by JIBSS Vet solutions Pvt. Ltd.), was applied topically every week (25 ml in 1 liter of water; precautions were taken to wear gloves and apply it all over the cat). No adverse effects or allergic reactions were observed throughout the treatment period.

On the 45th day of therapy, significant improvement was observed in the crusty lesion and alopecia (Fig. 5). Skin scraping examination performed on the 45th day after treatment showed no evidence of *Notoedres cati* mites. The present study suggests that Ivermectin can be used as a therapeutic option for cats with notoedrosis, as it successfully reduces clinical signs. Previous studies by Yadav et al. (2021) [10], Senthil Kumar et al. (2008) [3], Priyanka et al. (2016) [4], Stevanovic et al. (2019) [8], Fular et al. (2019) [2], and Narang et al. (2019) [3] also reported similar efficacy of ivermectin in treating feline notoedrosis and notoedric mange in rabbits. In this study, cat notoedrosis was effectively and safely treated with subcutaneous administration of ivermectin once a week for two occasions at a dose of 200 mcg per kg body weight.
weight. The combination of Ivermectin and Demoscanil (Lime Sulfur dip) demonstrated a 100% effectiveness against notoedric mange in cats. Demoscanil, being an anti-parasitic and anti-microbial lotion, also acts as a follicular flushing agent.

Conclusion
In conclusion, it has been observed that the combination of Ivermectin and Lime Sulfur dip has a synergistic effect on the therapeutic management of feline mange infestations, showing proven effectiveness.

Acknowledgements
The authors are thankful to the Dean, College of Veterinary and Animal Science, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, Telangana for providing necessary facilities for conducting the research work smoothly.

References