Flowchart Cat

Pruritus

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Medical history

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Clinical examination → Ectoparasites: NO

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Ectoparasites: YES

Notoedres	Cheyletiella	Demodex PLUS secondary bacterial infection	Other ectoparasites

Notoedres

Cheyletiella

Demodex

Poultry mite

Notoedres
- Massive pruritus
- Owner and/or other cats also affected
- Scaly, crusty margins of pinnae

Cheyletiella
- White scales on the cat´s back
- Other animals/humans also affected

Demodex PLUS secondary bacterial infection
- Alopecia, scales, crusts, comedones

Other ectoparasites
- *Otodectes cynotis*
- Harvest mite/*Neotrombicula autumnalis*
- Poultry mite/*Dermanyssus gallinae*
- Fleas /*Ctenocephalides felis*

Superficial skin scrapings, diagnostic treatment

Tape stripes, diagnostic treatment

(Deep) skin scrapings, Demodex PCR, cytology (+ pyoderma = pruritus)

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Pruritus resolved

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Pruritus resolved

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Demodex and antibacterial therapy

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Pruritus resolved

Ectoparasites: NO

Infection: YES

Malassezia
- Scales

Cytology, Malassezia IgE

Symptomatic treatment (systemic +/- topical), ASIT (hyposensitization) with Malassezia

Pruritus resolved

Bacterial infections
- Scales, crusts
- Papules, pustules
- Eosinophilic granuloma complex
- Self-induced ulcers, miliary dermatitis

Cytology, bacterial culture

Antibiosis, topical treatment

Pruritus resolved

Dermatophytosis
- With secondary infections optionally pruritic
- Scales, alopecia

DTM, Dermatophytes PCR, wood lamp, trichography

Systemic and topical treatment

Pruritus resolved

Infection: NO

Other possible causes for pruritus

Autoimmune

Cytology, biopsy

Other
- Neoplasm

Cytology, biopsy

Pruritus still persists

Adverse food reaction
- Miliary dermatitis
- Self-induced ulcers
- Self-induced alopecia
- Eosinophilic granuloma complex

Food allergy test
- Single allergen detection IgE and IgG to various proteins and carbohydrates

No success with elimination diet

Elimination diet
- Strict feeding of one protein and one carbohydrate for at least 2-3 months
- No treats, flavoured drugs!

Atopic dermatitis (AD, clinical diagnosis)
- Miliary dermatitis
- Self-induced ulcers
- Self-induced alopecia
- Eosinophilic granuloma complex
- Pruritus

Fleas, FAD (flea allergy dermatitis)
- Flea allergy vs. flea infestation
- Caudal half of body, croup, tail base
- All reaction patterns

Flea IgE blood allergy test, flea or flea faeces pos., diagnostic treatment

Allergy screening test (IgE, FcEpsilon receptor test)

Screening test in groups (mites, pollen, moulds, flea)

Seasonal allergens

Single allergen detection of grasses and pollens

Perennial allergens

Single allergen detection of moulds and mites

Mediterranean panel

Single allergen detection of pollens, moulds and mites

Insects

Single allergen detection

Feathers/hairs/scales

Single allergen detection

+

ASIT (allergen-specific immuno-therapy, hyposensitization) or avoidance therapy
- Allergen-extract, composed of positive allergens in allergy test
- Good success -> life-long treatment

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- Pre-treated? (cortisone)
- False timing (causative allergen not present)
- Atopic like disease (intrinsic type)
- Incorrect clinical diagnosis