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Introduction

Demodectic mange, which is also known as follicular mange, is not very important in pig production but does occur from time to time. Demodectic mange is caused by the mite *Demodex phylloides*, which spends its whole life inside hair follicles within the hair shaft.

Life cycle

Adult females lay their eggs in the hair follicles and when these hatch a series of larval and nymphal stages ensues, with the next generation of adults maturing in about two weeks. Typically, an adult mite lives for up to two months. As the pig ages the life cycles take longer, resulting in a small population of virtually all adult mites.

Infestation sites

The parts of the pig most commonly infested with demodex mites are snout, jowl, eyelids, ventral neck, mammary area and the inner aspect of the thighs.

Lesions

The lesions are red pinpoint foci early on but later they are hyperkeratotic and nodular. These nodules are distended hair follicles that contain mites and inflammatory debris.

Diagnosis

Diagnosis is made by demonstrating the causative mite in deep skin scrapings.

Treatment

No successful treatment has been reported.

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