

Chronic Progressive Lymphoedema and Chorioptic Mange: Coincidental Conditions or Captivating Connections?

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The known and the unknown

Chronic Progressive Lymphoedema (CPL) is a frequently observed condition in **heavy draught horse breeds** with abundant limb feathering. Its aetiology remains unclear, with *Chorioptes bovis* hypothesized as a possible exacerbating or even causative factor. Remarkably, while CPL has traditionally been considered exclusive to equines, similar CPL-like lesions appear in **Suffolk sheep** with **chorioptic mange**. This report aims to uncover **macroscopic, histological, and immunohistochemical associations** between CPL in Belgian draught horses and chorioptic mange in Suffolk sheep.



Belgian draught horse

Suffolk Sheep

Histology:

- Epidermal hyperplasia
- Extensive dermal fibrosis
- Perivascular dermatitis
- Absence of eosinophils
- Low amount of elastin

2.

Gross lesions:

- Skinfolds and nodules
- Excessive skin scaling
- Overall thickening of the skin
- Increased limb diameter
- Alopecia

1.

Immunohistochemistry:

- CD3⁺ T-cell infiltration
- No SMA⁺ fibroblasts
- No MAC387⁺ macrophages

3.

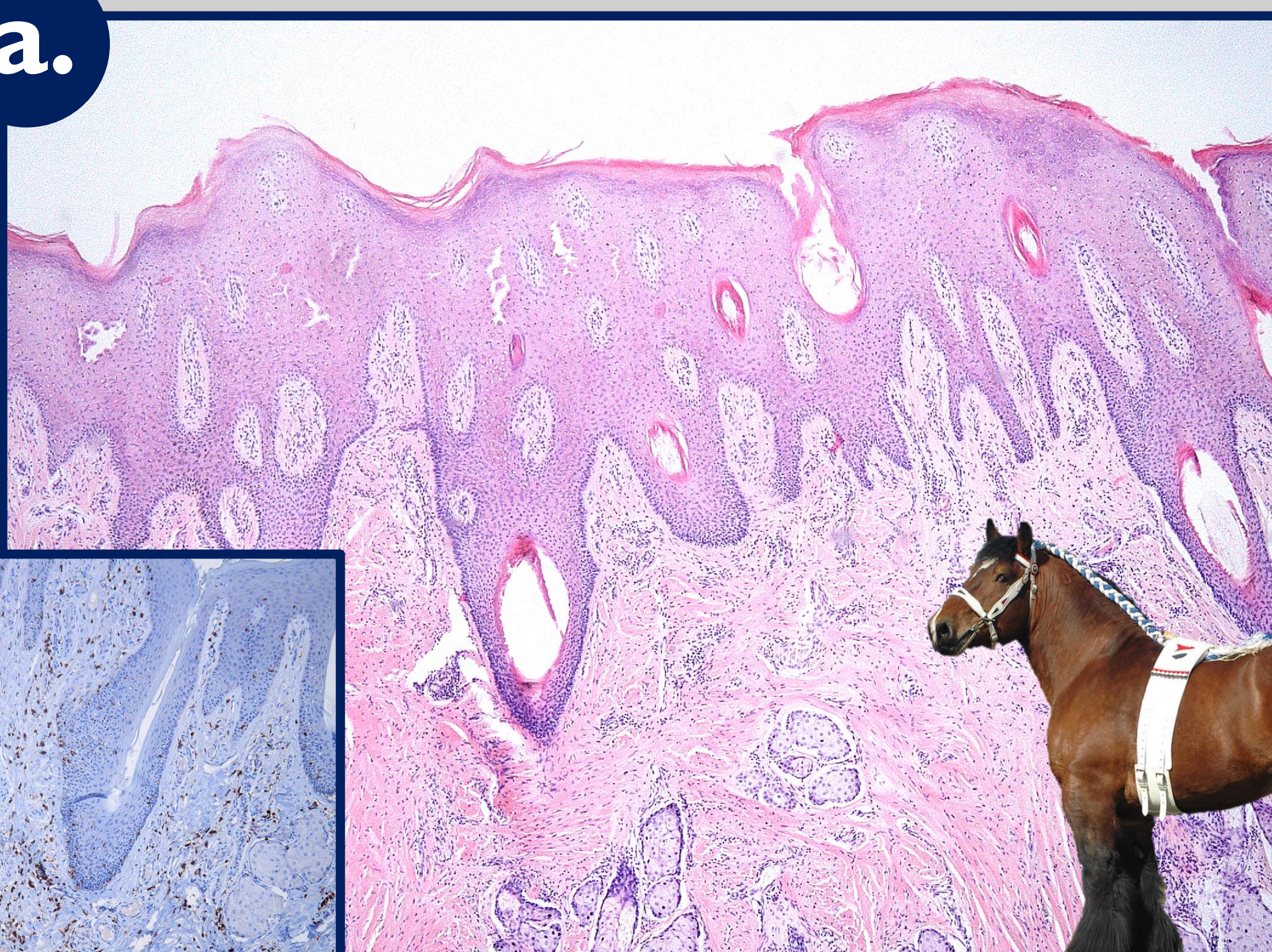


Something to discuss...

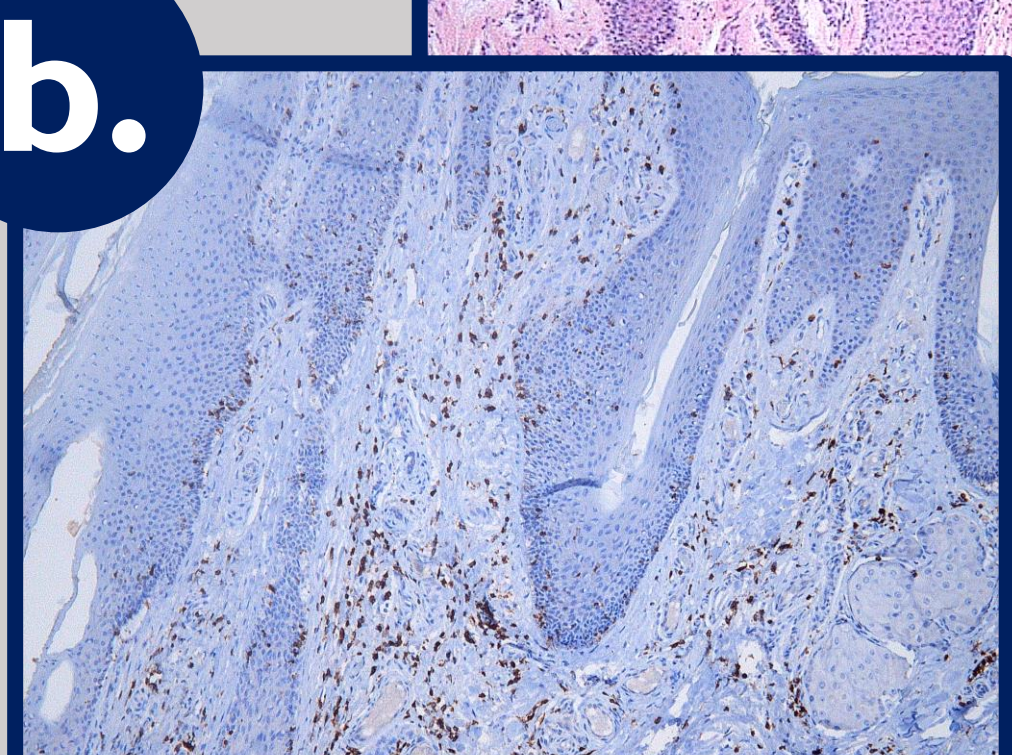
Gross lesions, histological features, and immunohistochemical findings show **significant similarities** between CPL and chorioptic mange. In addition, a notably high prevalence of *Chorioptes bovis* infestation has been observed in draught horses exhibiting CPL symptoms¹. Traditionally regarded as complicating factors, *Chorioptes bovis* may, in fact, play a **more significant, if not potentially causal, role in the pathogenesis** of CPL, given that the lesions induced by these mites correspond to those observed in CPL.

“The remarkable resemblances observed in the lesions associated with chorioptic mange and CPL imply a significant role of mites in the pathogenesis of CPL.”

a.

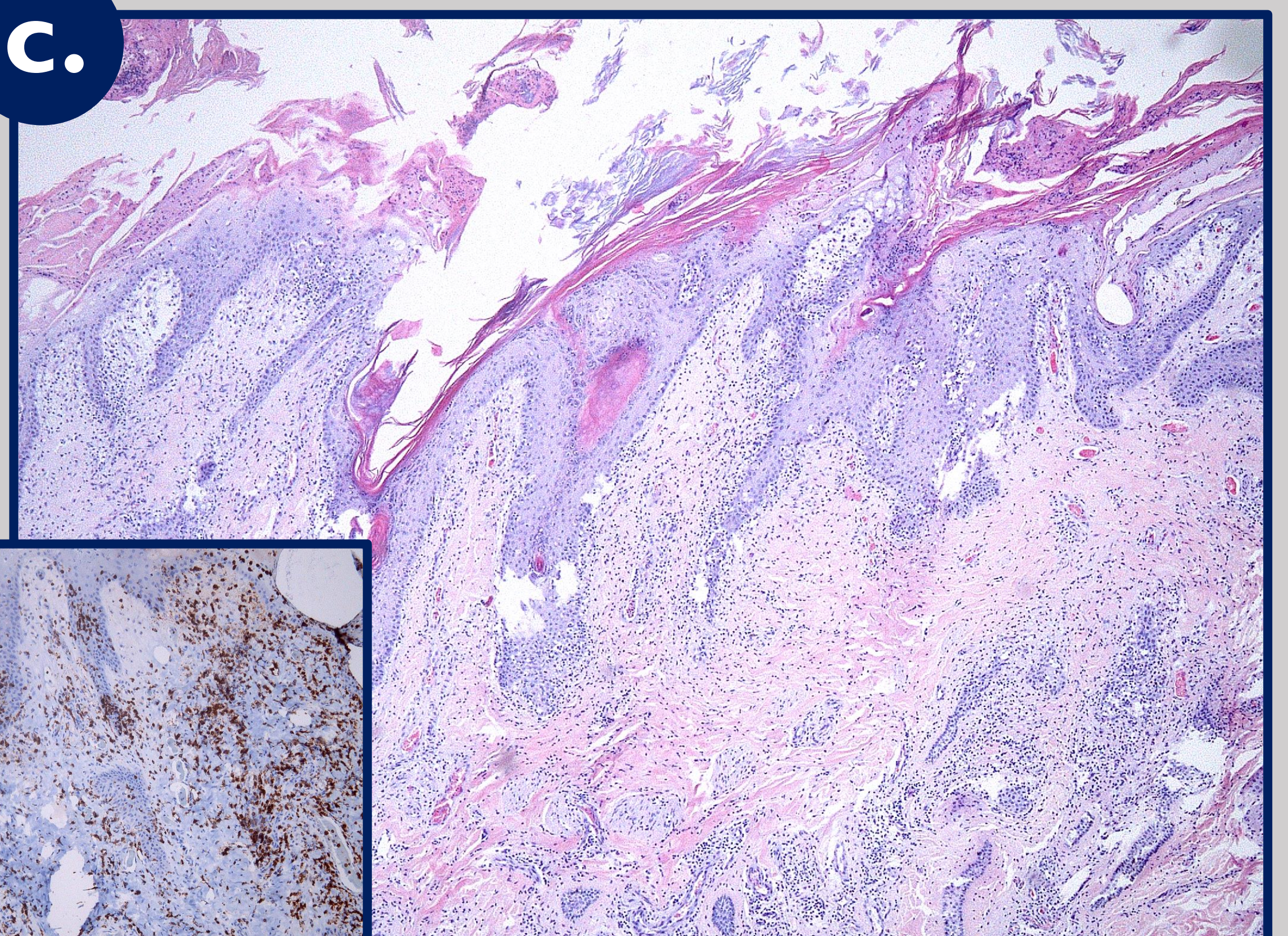


b.

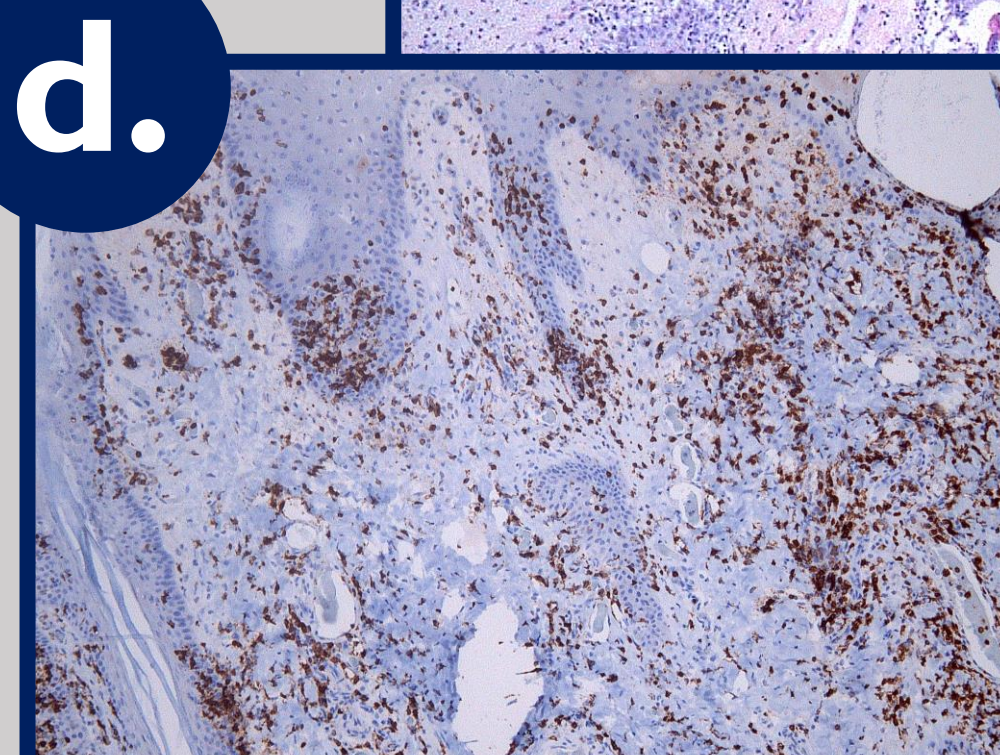


a. Cross section of the skin of a Belgian draught horse with CPL (HE, 50×)
b. Inflammatory infiltrate predominated by CD3⁺ T-cells (100×)

c.



d.



c. Cross section of the skin of a Suffolk sheep with chorioptic mange (HE, 50×)
d. Inflammatory infiltrate predominated by CD3⁺ T-cells (100×)