



## JUVENILE CELLULITIS

### ABOUT THE DISEASE

Juvenile Cellulitis is an immune-mediated skin condition where the puppy's own immune system attacks its skin. It strikes suddenly in puppies aged 3 weeks to 6 months.

#### Common signs:

- Swollen lymph nodes.
- Puffiness around the face, eyelids, and muzzle.
- Pus-filled bumps (pustules or pimples) that can burst and bleed.
- Follow-up skin or ear infections.
- Lethargy, fever, sore joints, or loss of appetite in more advanced cases

Certain breeds are more at risk, like Golden Retrievers, Dachshunds, and Gordon Setters.

### OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

Most diagnoses are obtained based upon historical data and physical exam findings.

Other diagnostics include direct skin testing, such as:

- Skin scrapings and cell checks (cytology) to exclude mites like Demodex.
- Skin biopsies for a firm confirmation (though not the first step).

### TREATMENT

The main treatment is higher doses of corticosteroids (like prednisolone) to calm the overactive immune system.

Some patients may also receive antibiotics for any follow-up skin or ear infections, but will not fix the root problem.

### TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Stick to the full treatment course—stopping early can lead to a relapse.