TRAUMATIC VENTRICULITIS IN POULTRY

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Traumatic ventriculitis is caused by foreign body penetration through gizzard (Peckham, 1965). Birds unlike other animals do not chew or masticate feed, but swallow quickly and hence more prone to ingestion of foreign bodies like nail, piece of wire, glass bits etc. These objects usually settle in the gizzard, and may cause perforation in the alimentary tract. Symptoms exhibited depend on the extent of damage to the structures (Misra and Angelo, 1980). In this communication a case of traumatic ventriculitis in a broiler bird is reported.

A dead broiler bird of seven weeks old was brought to the Livestock Research and Development Centre, Dharmapuri for post-mortem examination. According to the owner the bird was not taking feed and water for the last few days and gradually emaciating.

On post-mortem examination, a nail of 4 cm length was found to pierce through the muscular wall of the gizzard (Fig). Adhesion and inflammatory exudates were seen around the site of injury.

Similar conditions have been described earlier in pheasant (Peckham, 1965) and in layer (Misra and Angelo, 1980). Foreign bodies in gizzard without perforation has also been reported by few workers (Kummerfeld, 1982; Rosskopf and Woopel, 1982 and Reddy and Dewan Muthu Mohammed, 1990).

This condition might have been due to careless feeding by the farmer or indiscriminate feeding habits of poultry. Diagnosis of such condition can be done by X-ray or post mortem examination but in few case palpation may also be useful.

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References

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