

COLIBACILLOSIS IN A DESI CHICKEN

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An adult female desi chicken carcass was brought to the Department of Veterinary Pathology, Madras Veterinary College, Chennai – 600 007 with a history of sudden collapse. On gross visual examination, the carcass was poor in body condition and the eye balls were sunken. Visible mucous membranes were pale with prominent keel bone. Internal examination of the carcass revealed an enlarged liver which was adherent to the fibrinous membranous deposits. The epicardial surface of the heart was entirely covered with fibrinous deposits which was very hard to peel off. Cardiac chambers were empty. Spleen was enlarged and pin point foci was evident on cut section of the parenchyma. Lungs were edematous. Copious exudate oozed out on cut section of the lung. Trachea revealed mild froth mixed contents. Kidneys revealed multifocal grey white foci on the surface. Gizzard contained partially digested feed material and millets. Intestinal loops were adherent with each other with fibrinous membrane deposits throughout the length of the intestine. The lumen contained liquid brown mucoid contents. Mucosa revealed few areas of patchy congestion. The swab collected from the heart blood was subjected to culture examination which revealed the presence of characteristic *Escherichia coli* on nutrient agar and MacConkey agar. From the above findings, the case was diagnosed as colibacillosis.