



Tikrit University
College of Veterinary Medicine

Infectious Bursal Disease

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Lecturers link

5-Infectious Bursal Disease (I.B.D)

(Gumboro)

* **Definition:** it is **acute**, highly **contagious**, viral disease of **young** chickens, it is characterized by **destruction of lymphocytes in the bursa of fabricius (BF)** and to lessor extend in other **lymphoid organs**.

* **Etiology:**

It is caused by **Birna**.

* First recognized **1962** referred to as “**avian nephrosis**” because of extreme kidney damage in birds that succumbed to infection.

* The virus **resistant** to many **disinfectants and environmental** factors and remain infectious for at least **4 months** in poultry house environment.

* **The economic importance of the disease:**

It is manifested in many ways:-

- 1- **Mortality** may reach **20% or more** in chick **3 weeks** of age and older.
- 2- Severe prolong **immunosuppression** at early age.
- 3- **Sequelae** associated with immunosuppression **induced by virus** include (**gangrenous dermatitis, inclusion body hepatitis, anemia syndrome, E.coli**).
- 4- **Vaccination failures**.

* **Transmission of the disease:**

* Chicken infected with IBD virus, **shed virus in their feces in feed, water, poultry house, litter** become contaminated.

* Because of the **resistant nature of the IBD virus**, it is transmitted among the farms by **people, equipment and vehicles**.

***Clinical Signs:**

IBD follows **one of two courses depending on the age** at which chickens are infected:-

1-Subclinical Form:-

1-It is occur in chick **less than 3 weeks** of age, chick show **no** clinical signs of disease but experience permanent and **severe immunosuppression**.

2-The **immunosuppression** occur due to damage to **bursa of fabricius** and this form is **more economically important** from the disease.

3-Broiler infected by this form typically have **poor body weights** and **feed conversions, high mortality**, excessive reaction to respiratory vaccines and high rate of **condemnation at processing**.

2-The clinical Form:-

Usually occur in chickens from **3-6 weeks** of age, the clinical disease has a **sudden onset** and **mortality rate in the flock increase rapidly**.

Clinical signs include:

*Dehydration.

*Trembling.

*Ruffled feathers.

***Vent pecking**.

***Depression**.

***Gross lesion (P.M):-**

1-The bursa of fabricius appears to be the primary target organ of the virus.

2-On 3 days post-infection, the bursa of fabricius is **swollen (inflamed)** appears **edematous and hyperemic and gelatinous yellowish** transudate covering the serosal surface.

3-On 4 days, the size begins to decrease, and usually reach its **normal weight**.

4-On 5 days, the bursa **diminished** in size rapidly (**atrophy**), and the organ may become **gray** (while the normal white color turns to cream color).

5-On 8 days, it is **one-third** its original weight, or even less.

6-**Petechial hemorrhages** and area of necrosis may be present in **more severe cases**.

7-**Necrosis and depletion of lymphocytes** also occur in the **secondary lymphoid organs** including **the spleen** (small gray foci on the surface), **Harderian glands and cecal tonsil, bone marrow** these organs are affected but less severity than the bursa of fabricius and recovery may occur after infection.

8-**Hemorrhage** may be present in the **thigh and pectoral muscles** and in the mucosa at the **junction of the proventriculus and gizzard**.

9-The **Kidneys** may appear swollen in the birds that **die or are in advanced stages** of the disease, and in such lesions probably result from **severe dehydration**, not from viral.

*** Microscopic lesions:-**

*On 1 day post infection (PI), there was **degeneration and necrosis of lymphocytes** in medullary of bursal follicles. Lymphocytes **replaced by heterophils**.

*On **3 or 4 days PI**, **all lymphoid follicles** were affected (few lymphocytes are present), the **increase** in bursal weight caused by **severe edema, hyperemia**, and marked accumulation of **heterophils**.

*As the inflammatory **reaction declined**, **cystic cavity** developed in medullary areas of follicles, necrosis and **plasma cells** occurred, there was a **fibroplasia** in **interfollicular connective tissue**.

*** Diagnosis:-**

1-Flock history, clinical signs and lesions, confirm the diagnosis of clinical IBD be made at necropsy by examination the BF during the early stages of disease for **characteristic gross lesions**.

2-Histopathology of BF.

3-Serology e.g ELISA, AGP.

4-Viral isolation.

*** Prevention and Control:-**

An effective IBD prevention control programs must involve:-

- 1-effective **breeder** vaccination programs.
- 2-effective biosecurity programs.
- 3-effective **broiler** vaccination programs.

1-Effective breeder vaccination programs, Immunization of breeders are important part of IBD control program, because **Maternal Abs** if present in adequate levels protects the chicks against **subclinical IBD**.

*Example of breeder vaccination program:-

- 2 live vaccine (12-15 day), (30-33 days).
- 2 inactivated vaccine 85 days, 120 days.

*Routinely monitor breeder IBD Abs titers to ensure vaccines are administered properly and the chicken respond appropriately.

2-Biosecurity is very important to reduce the field virus exposure.

3-Effective broiler vaccination programs, good vaccination of broiler to prevent **clinical IBD**.

***Three category of vaccination based on their pathogenicity has been described:-**

- 1-Mild
- 2-Intermediate.
- 3- Virulent.

***Intermediate** type of IBD **vaccines** are most commonly used, because can stimulate the broiler to **produce Abs** earlier than mild type vaccines **without significant damage** to BF as may occur with the virulent type vaccines.

*The **timing of broiler vaccination depends** on the **levels of Maternal Abs** present in chicks, high levels of maternal Abs at the time of vaccination will **neutralize** the vaccine virus.

*Approximately **10-12** days are required after vaccination for chicken to develop minimal protection titers.

*In Virulent IBD **viruses** are able to overcome higher maternal titers from milder vaccines, therefore the vaccination of broiler **cannot** protect the flock against infection.

***Variant strain of IBD virus:**

Control of IBD has been further complicated by variant strain of IBD virus, these variant strain induce **damage** in BF in chicken even with **high Abs** titer are present, and **donot** cause clinical disease but induce serum immunosuppression.

*The BF of affected chicken undergoes rapid **atrophy** without the inflammatory changes that observed early in the infection with classical IBD viruses.

*These variants are not from a different serotype but are **Antigenically different** enough to cause problems, in this case consideration should be given to vaccination breeders with **inactivated vaccines** containing **standard and variant strain of IBD viruses**

Referens:

1-Saif, Y. M. (2009). *Diseases of poultry*. Twelfth edition. Iowa. Blackwell.2009. 185-209.