



Tikrit University
College of Veterinary Medicine

Chlamydiosis

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Lecturers link

Chlamydiosis

Definition:

The disease was called Psittacosis or Parrot fever when diagnosed in Psittacine (curve-beaked) birds, and called Ornithosis when diagnosed in all other birds or in humans. Currently, the term Chlamydiosis is used to describe infections in any animal.

Synonyms: Ornithosis, Psittacosis, Parrot fever.

Etiology:

The causative agent gram negative bacteria *Chlamydia psittaci* .

Pathogenesis:

The organism enter the blood through inhalation or from the contaminated food and water or by intermediate host like lice and mites, Its transfer by blood stream until arrived to the air sac, liver, kidney , spleen and pericardium, the organism multiple in these organs and at last appear clinical signs.

Susceptibility:

Turkeys, Pigeons, Ducks, Psittacine (curve-beaked) birds, , many other bird species, and other animals. Chickens are not commonly affected. Humans are susceptible, especially older and immunosuppressed individuals who are at a higher risk.

Transmission:

- 1.The primary transmission is through inhalation of fecal dust and respiratory tract secretions.
- 2.It can also be transmitted on contaminated clothing and equipment.
- 3.Recovered birds remain carriers and will continue to intermittently shed the infective agent for long periods after clinical signs have subsided.

Clinical signs:

1. Clinical signs in most birds include nasal-ocular discharge.
2. Conjunctivitis, sinusitis, diarrhea, weakness, loss of body weight, and a reduction in feed consumption.
3. In turkeys there is also showed respiratory distress and loose yellow to greenish-yellow colored droppings.

P.M. lesions:

1. Pericarditis, congestion of the lung, airsacculitis, clouding of air sac walls and enlargement of the liver and spleen.
2. In pigeons and other birds with chronic infection may show splenomegaly and hepatomegaly.

Diagnosis:

- 1- Chlamydiosis is diagnosed by isolation and identification of *Chlamydia psittaci* in cell cultures or embryonating chicken eggs.
- 2- Take the smears from liver, air sac or pericardium which stained with Giemsa staining used for detection of intracytoplasmic bodies which has reddish color in the cytoplasm of infected cells.

Differential diagnosis:

Fowl cholera, especially in turkeys. Newcastle disease, Avian influenza, Infectious bronchitis, Swollen head syndrome, Mycoplasmosis and Colibacillosis.

Treatment:

Chlortetracycline can be given in the feed (200-400 g/ton) for 3 weeks.

Prevention:

There is no vaccine. Have a good biosecurity program, excluding wild birds as much as possible