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Immunosuppression and IBH (Inclusion Body Hepatitis) in A Flock of Broiler Chickens - IBH has Become a Primary Concern in Recent Times

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- There are multiple serotypes of chicken adenovirus that cause IBH. This virus is resistant to various disinfectants, heat, and changes in pH. While it can be transferred horizontally, the most efficient way for it to pass from parents to offspring is through vertical transmission.
- In addition to the oral-feacal route, mechanical means and contamination with contaminated feces can also contribute to horizontal transmission of the causal virus.
- A major issue with inclusion body hepatitis has emerged in commercial broiler farming in recent times in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and throughout the nation.
- This disease is causing mortality in birds of all ages and is out of control despite the use of drugs.
- The infectious bacterial hepatitis virus (IBH) has the ability to infect broilers of all ages, including chicks, even during the first two to three weeks of their lives and IBH signs and lesions can be seen in chicks as young as five days of age.

Clinical lesion in suspected cases of IBH -

- Hydro-pericardium (67%)
- Yellow or pale liver (44%)
- Pale and inflamed kidney (33%)
- Hemorrhage on muscles and gizzard erosion (11%)
- Sudden mortality (22%)
- Enlarged liver (67%)
- Necrotic Foci on liver (33%)

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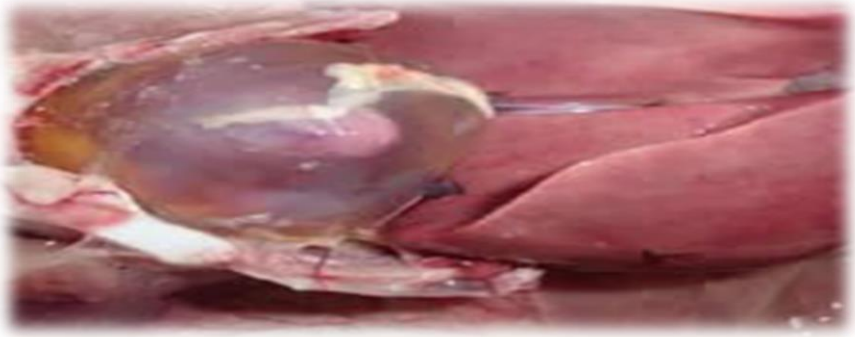
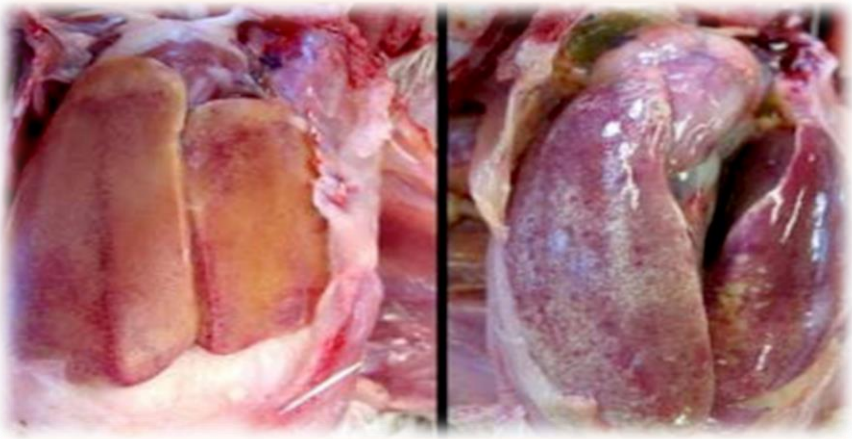
- Regression of lumen (11%)
- Water accumulation in head (11%)





- Clinically, birds exhibit diarrhea that is greenish in color and indicate depression, Jaundice, an enlarged kidney, a grayish-white patch of necrosis on the liver, and atrophy of the bursa of fabricus were all observed during the necropsy as well.
- During outbreaks of IBH, the mortality rate reaches its highest point within three to four days, reaching 10%. On occasion, it can even reach as high as 30%.
- A significant number of Asian countries have documented the presence of the diseases.
- Since it is a newly emerging disease in poultry, it is imperative that we take immediate action to control the diseases. This can be accomplished by the implementation of appropriate nutritional management techniques, such as the utilization of immunomodulators to alleviate stress, in conjunction with the implementation of vaccination programs.
- An increase in death rates and a higher FCR have resulted in significant economic losses for farmers.

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- It is shown that a high death rate occurs when the males that are affected are young than three weeks of age.
- Clinically infected birds exhibit symptoms such as lethargy, huddling, ruffled feathers, and inappetence. Mortality often reaches its peak within three to four days and then begins to decrease approximately nine to fourteen days later.
- In the context of industrial poultry farming, it is of utmost importance to boost the immune system of birds in order to prevent infectious diseases.
- Furthermore, the successful growth and development of young chicks also necessitate a minimal immunological response.

Reference

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