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Introduction

Dactylariosis is a sporadic fungal encephalitis of birds caused by *Dactylaria gallopava* that affects young chickens and turkey poults. Typically, when dactylariosis occurs, a relatively large proportion of the flock can be affected.

The disease

Clinical signs are those of a disease that affects the central nervous system and include incoordination, loss of balance, tremors, torticollis, paralysis and death. Mortalities as high as 5% in chickens, 20% in turkey poults and 15-20% in quails have been reported.

Gross lesions are confined to the cerebrum and cerebellum which histopathologically show the hyphae of *Dactylaria*.

Microbiological cultures from affected brains yield *D. gallopava*.

Epidemiology

Dactylariosis is frequently associated with incubators or bedding material that is contaminated with *D. gallopava*.

Treatment

There is no medication for dactylariosis. Treatment focuses on identifying and removal of the source of the infection.

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