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Immunity

Immunity (active or passive) is not effective in countering or controlling *Staphylococcus aureus* infections in poultry.

Diagnosis

As similar lesions can be caused by several bacteria, diagnosis is based on isolating the causative bacterium, *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Differential diagnosis

Differential diagnosis needs to consider infections caused by bacteria such as *E. coli*, *Pasteurella multocida* and *Salmonella gallinarum* as well as by *Mycoplasma synoviae* and reoviruses.

Blood testing

Serological testing is not normally done for staphylococcal infections in poultry.

Treatment

Staphylococcus aureus infections can respond to medication but it is always sensible to undertake an antibiogram. Various drugs have been used with success but in many parts of the world amoxicillin is now often the preferred choice.

Management should look at what can be done to reduce the risk of damaging the skin which provides a route of entry for infection – for example using wood shavings that are splinter free and ensuring that there are galvanised spikes on male feeder exclusion grills on breeder farms.

As staphylococcosis often follows early Gumboro disease and chicken anaemia infections prevention of these by vaccination should be undertaken.

Prevention of staphylococcal infection in young chicks is all about hatching chicks with healed navels.

Vaccination

Use of live or dead *Staphylococcus aureus* vaccines does not appear to provide adequate protection.

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