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West Nile virus

West Nile virus is an arthropod borne flavivirus which is transmitted by mosquitoes to a variety of mammals and birds. This virus was associated with an epizootic that killed large numbers of wild crows in North America in 1999.

Outbreaks of West Nile virus have occurred in Israel and Romania.

In this infection large viral numbers are seen in various internal organs including the brain. Histopathologically the only lesions associated with West Nile virus have been myocarditis in the heart and encephalitis in the brain.

It would appear that bird to bird transmission can occur, at least in geese, and this could be facilitated by cannibalism and/or feather pecking.

Reoviruses

In France reovirus is considered to be an important viral disease in 2-4 week old Muscovy ducklings characterised by apathy, scour and mortality. On post mortem a fibrinous pericarditis, marbled spleen and hepatomegaly are seen.

A reovirus related condition has been seen in goslings, which typically shows hepatitis and splenitis in the acute disease and epicarditis, arthritis and tenosynovitis in the chronic form.

The Chinese have reported a reovirus infection in ducks typified by swollen heads and haemorrhages.

Goose herpesvirus

In Australia a herpes virus was associated with a 97% mortality over a four week period in farmed geese. Clinical and post mortem findings were similar to those seen in duck viral enteritis (PoultryBYTES 118). Pekin ducks are not susceptible to infection with this virus.

Adenoviruses

Duck adenovirus I has been associated with acute respiratory disease in goslings and Muscovy ducklings. Untypable adenoviruses were isolated from a die off of wild ducks in Alaska, a mucosal necrosis of the posterior intestine in Eider ducks in Finland and an enteritis in goslings in China.

Circo-like viruses

Duck and goose circoviruses are two distinct viruses. In geese a cloudiness of the air sacs is seen and feather loss and stunted growth has been reported in naturally infected Muscovy, mule and Pekin ducks and White Roman geese in Taiwan.

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