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An out breaks of pox clinical signs among Turkey in Iraq

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Abstract

A natural outbreak of pox was reported in Turkey (poult) farm for the first time in Iraq. The infected poult were 1 month age and showed generalized skin nodular lesions. More severe lesions were observed on the head and upper neck. The morbidity and mortality rates were (23 out of 23) 100% and (20 out of 23) 86.95% respectively. The diagnosis of disease was done according to typical clinical signs, morbidity and mortality rates. The author recommend to do another survey studies on the turkey farms and isolate the causative agent.

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Introduction

Avian pox diseases are a viral disease of poultry. It also affects pet and wild birds. They are contagious and slow-spreading viral infections affecting numerous species of birds including chickens the first turkeys (Tripathy and Cunningham, 1984). The incidence of pox diseases in flocks of different species of the birds are quite common

in many countries (Biggs, 1982; Garg *et al.,* 1984; Singh *et al.,* 2000) and causing significant economic losses concerning mortality, drop in egg production and meat condemnation.

In Iraq, the pox disease in poultry has attracted attention as this disease has been reported in chicken and pigeon in the veterinary hospital in different Iraqi governorates. However, the disease hasn't previously reported in Turkey in Iraq. This article designed to report and describe the first incidence of avian pox disease in turkey farm in Baghdad city / Al Dora district.

Case history and management of cases

At 18 June 2011, a farmer brought three turkeys to the Al Dora district veterinary clinic. The turkeys were one-month-old and raised with local chicken of different ages. The turkeys were suffered from generalized dark brown 1 cm in diameter nodular lesions and pustules. The lesions were distributed in the head especially around the eyes, beak and on the fingers. The turkeys were suffered from severe itching and weakness. All turkeys in the farm revealed different stages of the disease. The morbidity and mortality rates were (23 out of 23) 100% and (20 out of 23) 86.95% respectively. The death occurred due to blindness and inability of turkey to eat. Turkeys Lesions were locally treated with Lugol's iodine mixed with olive oil and orally administration of multivitamins and antibiotic.

Discussion

The infection was approved as pox disease depending on the presence of pustules in the head particularly around the eyes, beak and on the fingers which are compatible with Alsheikhly, (2003), who mentioned that pox clinical signs are enough to confirm the diagnosis. The high mortality and morbidity rates reported in this outbreak was considered as an indication for the virulence of the virus. The resistance of the local chicken that raised on the same farm to the pox virus indicated the specificity of this viral strain to infect the turkey rather than local chicken. However, the source of infection was not recognized. Avian pox was isolated previously from peacock in Iraq (Al Falluji *et al.,* 1979). Moreover, this virus strain was experimentally induced severe infection in the chicken but was failed to infect turkey. These observations indicated that Turkey was infected only with the particular strain of turkey. Literatures referred that turkey pox can infect turkey as well as chicken. However, the virus that induced infection in this outbreak might transmit from wild birds, and its transportation occurred via insects especially the mosquitoes. The isolation of virus and its characteristic features and pathogenicity will be presented in another study. Later on, the disease became contagious in Iraq and distributed continuously in Turkey in Iraq. The disease is still reported in Turkey in Iraq, and the review of the literature revealed the incidence of avian pox in chicken, pigeon, and peacock ((Al Falluji *et al.,* 1979). Moreover, the disease was also reported in eagle, pheasant (Tantawi *et al.,* 1981) and

quail (Alani, 1986; Alani and Shaker, 1994). In conclusion, this case report approved pox of turkey for the first time in Iraq.

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