Malabsorption Syndrome

This complex disease has been reported under various na such as helicopter disease, femoral head necrosis, brittle bone disease, infectious proventriculitis, pale bird syndroi running disease and stunting disease.

Cause

The malabsorption syndrome appears to be a disease con plex involving avian Reoviruses and other viral and bacter agents which may affect the digestive system resulting in nutritional and deficiency signs and lesions.

Transmission

Only circumstantial evidence is present at the moment to indicate that the causal organism(s) may be vertically trar mitted. Horizontal transmission also seems to play a role
infected sites.

Species affected

Chickens and possibly turkeys.

Clinical signs

The disease is mainly observed in broiler flocks. Many of ted broiler flocks have a history of diarrhoea, beginning early as a few days of age and lasting until 10-14 days of Light or dark brown, foamy droppings can be found with undigested food particles. Several affected broilers in a may exhibit malpositioned feathers, especially on the wi

Early rickets with extreme paleness of legs and heads ca observed.

Encephalomalacia is also regularly found. At a later age weeks) osteoporosis becomes clinically evident, frequen unilateral causing the birds to limp. Later an important i is the delayed growth of the affected birds. Mortality is ble and in general as low as 4 %.

Diagnosis

The clinical disease is characterized by one or more of the following lesions: enteritis with watery brown and foaming contents and the presence of undigested food in the intestine. Mucosal and submucosal - proventricular lesions. Pancreatic inflammatory infiltration with degenerative changes have been found. Osteoporosis and osteomyelitis, femoral head necrosis whereby the bone of the epiphysis of the femur is unusually soft.
Since the causal agent may differ it is difficult to base a diagnose on virus isolation or serology.

Treatment and control

Treatment is impossible, vaccination against reovirus in the breeders helps to reduce problems in the progency.

Strict hygienic and sanitary measures will reduce the incidence of the disease.