

POST - MORTEM OBSERVATIONS OF CAMEL POX - A CASE REPORT

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Camel pox is a wide-spread infectious viral disease of camelids. It occurs throughout the camel breeding areas of world causing economic impact through loss of production and sometimes death. The camel pox virus belongs to the family Poxviridae, sub-family Chordopoxvirinae, genus Orthopoxvirus. The disease is characterised by fever, local or generalised pox lesions on the skin and mucous membranes of the trachea, oesophagus and lung. The clinical manifestations range from inapparent infection to mild and moderate. In some cases severe systemic infection and death. The disease occurs more frequently and severely in young animals. Transmission is by either direct contact between infected and susceptible animals or indirect infection via a contaminated environment. The role of insects in the transmission has been suspected because the disease is often observed after rainfall (Wernery *et al*, 1997). Camel pox virus is very host specific and does not infect other animals but has been recently reported to infect humans (Bera *et al*, 2011).

Materials and Methods

Clinical examination showing nodular structures on the skin of face, neck, abdominal and



Fig 1. Pox lesions on the face and mandibular area of a dromedary.

thigh regions. The history and clinical examination indicated that the camel was suffering from pox. Camel was died after 3 days of treatment. A carcass of dromedary aged about 8 years was submitted for post-mortem examination.

Results and Discussion

The lesions observed during post-mortem examination of this camel exhibited nodular lesions sized 1-3 cm on the skin of face, neck, abdomen and thigh regions (Fig 1). Multiple ulcerations were present in the mucosa of the large intestine (Fig 2) with depressed centre and a raised, erythematous border. The size of these lesions varied in diameter from 2-4 cm but it is not clear if they originated from the pox infection.



Fig 2. Ulceration in the large intestine of a dromedary.

References

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