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Abortion Due to Fungi

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The patient was treated with a total of 7 gm. of terramycin intravenously: 3 gm. on October 25, and 2 gm. each on the following two days. Two grams of chloromycetin was given intravenously on October 29. There was no marked improvement following the administration of these antibiotics and the dyspnea became more pronounced. The patient became very emaciated and depressed. The owner was notified of the animal's condition and permission was granted to have the animal destroyed.

Autopsy revealed chronic bilateral paralaryngeal abscesses (each about 5 x 2 x 2 cm.) located beneath the mucosa covering the thyroid cartilages; each abscess had a fistulous opening into the larynx. The pus was white, thin, gaseous and malodorous. Culturing revealed colonies of *Corynebacterium pyogenes*. The probable reason that the antibiotics were not effective in this case was because the abscesses were well established before therapy began.

Paul Brocksmith, '54

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Fibrosarcoma in a Shetland Colt.

On Nov. 19, 1952, a six-month-old Shetland female colt was admitted to Stange Memorial Clinic with an enlarged, edematous, and hemorrhagic growth on its jaw. The only history available was that the owner had noticed its appearance about a month previous. The patient was quite active and alert. The growth did not hinder mastication nor affect the patient's appetite. Temperature, pulse, respiration, and bowel movements were within normal limits.

A biopsy was performed and the tissue taken to the clinical laboratory. The laboratory diagnosis was an inflamed, edematous, hemorrhagic granulation tissue with islands of fibrosarcoma.

Removal of the neoplasm was decided upon. The patient was restrained on an operating table and an area around the growth was clipped and shaved. The base

of the pedunculated tumor was anesthetized by infiltrating with 20 cc. of 2 percent procaine. The growth was then removed by electro-cautery at slightly deeper than skin level. It was not desirable to go deeper because of the danger to other structures in the area and to prevent the possibility of creating a permanent fistula in the oral cavity. The wound healed with a hard eschar and a depression approximately one inch in diameter.

This case is interesting because of the extremely young age at which this colt developed a malignant connective tissue growth and the surprisingly rapid recovery. The patient was discharged on December 2, eight days after removal of the tumor.

Howard Bayles, '54

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Abortion Due to Fungi.

On Sept. 25, 1952, a fetus was presented to the Iowa State Diagnostic Laboratory for examination of a possible cause of the abortion. The fetus was from a Holstein cow that was about seven and one half months along in her gestation period. This was the second abortion to occur under similar circumstances within ten days.

Following the second abortion, all cattle in the herd were tested for brucellosis and all were negative.

The first fetus to be aborted was also presented for examination but bacteriological cultures did not reveal any probable cause. However, a culture from the stomach of the second fetus produced a fungus growth identified by the laboratory here as *Aspergillus fumigatus*. This diagnosis was later confirmed by the federal laboratory at Chamberlee, Georgia.

In both cases of abortion, it was necessary to remove the placenta manually. Routine methods were used for this operation and sulfa-urea tablets were placed in the uterus. Both cows made uneventful recoveries and at this writing, both have been re-bred. One appears safely settled

and the other probably so. No further abortions occurred in the herd.

Of interest in this case was the occurrence of numerous cases of foot rot in the herd. The inflammation was of a type that would indicate a fungus infection but cultures were never made for the purpose of identification.

Previous cases of abortion due to various species of fungi such as *Mucor rhizopodiformis* and *Aspergillus fumigatis* have been reported. Jungheer reported four such cases, three from one herd. Bendixen and Plum isolated a mold from 15 cows which had aborted in one herd. Inoculation of this mold intravenously into pregnant cows had led to a train of changes which resulted in abortion, indicating that the organism can localize in the fetal membranes.

Merle H. Lang, '54

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Hepatic Abscesses in a Bovine.

On Dec. 1, 1952, a two-year-old Hereford heifer was presented to the Stange Memorial Clinic. The history was that of gradual emaciation, weakness, fetid feces containing mucus, temperature of 99°F. and with a suspicion of traumatic reticulitis. On Dec. 2, 1952, the patient died.

Post-mortem examination revealed multiple hepatic abscesses with a probable origin from traumatic reticulitis. Many of the abscesses had become confluent, varying in diameter from 5 to 20 cm. It was estimated that the liver contained at least a gallon of purulent exudate. Focalized peritonitis was present between the liver and reticulum and areas adjacent to the hepatic abscesses. Death was due to a toxemia, which was evidenced by the presence of numerous hemorrhages in various tissues throughout the body.

Special emphasis should be placed upon the fact that extensive involvement of the liver may cause the general symptoms of a chronic debilitating disease with a gradual loss of condition, depression, weakness, anorexia, decreased milk flow and

rough hair coat. It is impossible to palpate the liver per rectum, but distinct pain upon percussion over the area of the liver may be produced. If hepatic damage is suspected it may be of diagnostic value to perform a liver function test.

Abscesses of the liver occur under the following conditions: (a) Traumatic gastritis either by extension from the peritoneum or from direct injury by the foreign body; (b) Metastatic embolic or pyemic abscesses are frequent in severe metritis, mastitis and navel-ill, and occasional in tuberculosis and actinomycosis.* Involvement may be extensive, in the form of a single large abscess, or there may be multiple abscesses with communicating fistulae.

Chan Cotton, '53

*Udall, D. H., The Practice of Veterinary Medicine.

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Adenocarcinoma of the Bile Ducts.

On Oct. 23, 1952, a five-year-old Holstein cow was admitted to the Stange Memorial Clinic, Ames, Iowa. According to the history she had freshened six weeks previously and for the past three weeks had been eating hay but no grain. The general condition of the animal was poor.

On October 24, blood and urine samples were sent to the laboratory, but the results were of little diagnostic value. On October 28, a test for ketone bodies was positive and the patient was treated with 500 cc. of 50 percent glucose. It was followed the next day with 500 cc. of 50 percent glucose, a #10 capsule of chloral hydrate orally and ¾ pt. of molasses. Two #10 capsules of gentian, ginger, and nuxvomica were given orally to stimulate rumen activity. The patient continued to drop in milk production, the rumen movements became very weak, the feces were scanty and hard. Just before death on November 3, a severe watery diarrhea developed.

A necropsy was performed on November 4. Multiple neoplastic-like masses