

**C14 - AVIAN TUBERCULOSIS IN AN EAGLE OWL**

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*Introduction:* Avian tuberculosis is a worldwide disease which affects companion, captive exotic, wild and domestic birds. It is a slowly spreading, chronic bacterial infection most commonly caused by *Mycobacterium avium sp. avium*. The disease is more common in captive than in wild birds although mycobacterial infection has been reported in different wild species. This work describes a clinical case of avian tuberculosis in an eagle owl that was remitted to the Veterinary Pathology Diagnostic Service of the University of León.

*Material and methods:* Necropsy was performed on the animal, and tissue samples were collected for light microscopy. Samples were stained with H&E and Zielh-Neelsen, and tested by PCR from paraffin embedded samples against the specified sequence IS901 of *Mycobacterium avium sp. avium*.

*Results:* At necropsy a subcutaneous yellowish, caseous, big mass, involving the neck which surrounded the cervical vertebrae and trachea and compressed the esophagus was observed. Histopathological examination of lesions in samples of the cervical region revealed a severe granulomatous inflammation in the subcutaneous tissue characterised by a well-defined area of central necrosis surrounded mainly by macrophages and giant cells, with high amount of acid-fast bacilli within the lesions. By PCR *Mycobacterium avium sp. avium* was detected. No significant lesions were observed in others organs and tissues.

*Conclusions:* Atypical form of avian tuberculosis is described affecting only the subcutaneous tissue of neck area.