P32 - A SUSPECTED CASE OF CALICIVIRUS DISEASE IN AN IBERIAN HARE (Lepus granatensis).


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Introduction: European brown hare syndrome (EBHS) is caused by a calicivirus closely related to rabbit haemorrhagic disease (RHD) virus, both accompanied by similar clinical symptoms as well as pathological and histopathological changes. In Spain, only one case has been reported in European Hare (Lepus europaeus).

Material and methods: In a few days, two adult Iberian Hares (Lepus granatensis) died acutely with epistaxis as the only clinical sign. Both were kept isolated for the last two months in a wild animal rehabilitation centre with other three adult hares that remained healthy.

Results: At necropsy, severe hemorrhages and edemas in the lungs as well as hepatomegaly with friable consistence of the liver were the main gross lesions. Microscopically, vacuolation, karyolysis and karyorrhexis were observed widespread in individual hepatocytes, and foci of small number of necrotic hepatocytes were found associated with neutrophils in the perilobulillar areas. Disseminated intravascular coagulation was also observed. Immunohistochemistry with an antiserum against VP-60 viral antigen was performed with positive result with the same distribution of lesions. Results from the analysis of anticoagulants rodenticides were negative.

Conclusion: A calicivirus infection has been considered as a possible origin of the disease.