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Intracare

Differential diagnosis

Differential diagnosis is not usually a big task, even though none of the lesions are pathognomonic.

Differential diagnosis is a consideration of other causes of anaemia.

Prevention

Prevention focuses around avoiding other immunosuppressive stresses and keeping the causative agent out of the farm (biosecurity) coupled with vaccination.

If a breeder flock produces chicks with an adequate level of immunity against chicken anaemia virus these progeny chicks will be adequately protected against field challenge by the chicken anaemia virus. Thus, prevention centres around the provision of adequate levels of maternal immunity in the chicks by ensuring an adequate level of immunity in the parents via vaccination.

Before vaccines were available the immunity in the parents was achieved by exposing young breeders to litter from a chicken anaemia virus infected flock. Obviously this is not a practice to be recommended as routine as it also exposes the recipient flocks to other pathogens, including salmonella.

As the vaccine is not the cheapest of vaccines, many operators blood test pre-point of lay breeder flocks to confirm their status and then only vaccinate the seronegative flocks. In practice in many organisations, many of the breeder flocks test positive, negating the need for vaccination.

Treatment

There is no specific treatment for chicken anaemia in broilers although some veterinarians will administer antibiotics to counter possible secondary infections.