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Diagnosis

A presumptive diagnosis can usually be made on the basis of gross lesions and the confirmation of acid-fast bacteria in smears taken from these lesions.

A tuberculin skin test can be used to confirm the presence of avian tuberculosis in a flock as can ELISA or whole blood agglutination blood tests.

Differential diagnosis

Differential diagnosis is the differential diagnosis of granulomatous conditions. The differential diagnosis should include Hjarre's disease (coligranuloma), pullorum disease, other salmonella infections, Staphylococcus infections, fowl cholera, aspergillosis and neoplastic conditions such as Marek's disease and leucosis.

Control

Removal of infected birds reduces environmental contamination and the infections that arise from this.

Control centres around depopulation and removing anything that could be contaminated with *M. avium*.

Vaccination

Various test vaccines have been evaluated over the years but currently there is no commercially available tuberculosis vaccine for poultry.

Medication

In man anti-tuberculosis drugs are available, but their use in poultry is neither practical or cost effective.