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Liver tumours

Hepatocellular adenomas and hepatocellular adenocarcinomas are often seen in chickens. Some liver tumours have been induced by certain viral infections or chemicals.

Tumours affecting the gall bladder and bile ducts are rare in poultry. Bile duct tumours need to be differentiated from cellular proliferations induced by some hepatotoxins following their damaging effects on the liver.

Pancreatic tumours

Here we have the problem of differentiating primary (pancreatic) tumours from the metastases of tumours whose primary site is elsewhere in the body, for example, the ovary.

Respiratory system tumours

Pulmonary adenocarcinomas are very rare. Primary tumours, which are rare, need to be differentiated from the metastases of other tumours.

Nervous system tumours

There are various tumours of the central nervous system, such as astrocytomas, ependymomas, meningiomas and pineal body tumours, but none are of real importance to poultry production. Similar comment can be made for those tumours affecting the peripheral nerve system with the exception of those associated with Marek's disease which have been discussed previously.

Post traumatic neuromas, for example after beak trimming, are not true tumours.

Skin tumours

Various sarcomas, fibromas and myxomas are found in subcutaneous tissues and many of these are associated with avian leukosis viruses. Other tumours found here include lipomas, liposarcomas and haemangiopericytomas.

Tumours of the actual skin include squamous cell carcinomas, which have the potential to metastasise, and keratocanthomas.