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Introduction

Candidiasis is a mycosis caused by the opportunistic pathogen, the yeast *Candida albicans*. *Candida* infections of the upper digestive tract, especially the crop, are often called thrush. Other commonly used names are sour crop and moniliasis. The condition is seen in chickens, turkeys, geese, guinea fowl, pheasants and many other avian species.

Aetiology

C. albicans is the primary causal agent of thrush although other *Candida* species have been associated with the condition. Mixed infections have been seen.

Pathogenesis

C. albicans is an intestinal commensal. When immunosuppression or a shift in microfloral balance occurs, for example, following the use of an anticoccidial, infection with *Candida* Spp. can occur. Candidiasis of the digestive tract is probably more common than many think.

Clinical signs

Affected birds often show depressed growth, listlessness and rough feathers and candidiasis is often secondary to another disease. In this situation the signs of that disease often predominate. Young birds are more susceptible, but older birds make better recoveries.

Lesions

The mouth and oesophagus are often diphtheritic and the crop has a white lining.

Treatment

Candidiasis often reflects unhygienic conditions and these should be corrected. There is no practical treatment although copper sulphate, nystatin and sodium lauryl sulphate have been used with variable success to treat or prevent candidiasis.