

Zeitschrift:	Schweizer Archiv für Tierheilkunde SAT : die Fachzeitschrift für Tierärztinnen und Tierärzte = Archives Suisses de Médecine Vétérinaire ASMV : la revue professionnelle des vétérinaires
Herausgeber:	Gesellschaft Schweizer Tierärztinnen und Tierärzte
Band:	132 (1990)
Heft:	8
Artikel:	Clinical and pathological findings in spontaneous B.R.S.V. infection in yearling lambs
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DOI:	https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-593681

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Blood Test

	Control	Group I	Group II	Group III	Group IV
Total Proteins	8.5±0.2	7.2±0.3	6.3±0.2	4.5±0.46	4.3±0.3

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CLINICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL FINDINGS IN SPONTANEOUS B.R.S.V. INFECTION IN YEARLING LAMBS

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Since 1968, when Doggett et al. first neutralized human R.S.V. in bovine serum, the involvement of R.S.V. in respiratory disease has been confirmed in cattle (Castleman et al., 1985) as well as in other species, notably sheep (Cutlip et al., 1979). The purpose of this study was to analyze the clinical, hematological and pathological characteristics of a group of 8 lambs with B.R.S.V.

Material and methods

A clinical examination was carried out and rectal temperature, heart-rate and respiration-rate were recorded. Blood counts were accompanied by hemochromometric tests. Lambs were slaughtered and samples were routinely processed for virological analysis using cell cultures (Giemsa and T.E.M.), pathological analysis (T.E.M. and light microscopy) and immunological analysis (immunohistochemistry and IFI).

Results

Clinical examination

Animals	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
General condition				<	<	<	<	<
Anorexia	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%
Conjunctivitis	+	+	+	+	++	++	+++	+++
Nasal discharge	++	+	+	+	++	++	+++	+++
Cough	+	—	—	+	++	++	++	+++
Heart-rate	81	78	92	94	101	100	110	107
Respiratory-rate	60	63	76	73	65	60	65	80

(-) = Absence; () = moderate decrease; (<) = severe decrease;

(+) = moderate increase; (++) = severe increase.

Blood counts

Animals	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Erythro. (10^6) mm	11.2	11.5	9.8	10.2	10.5	10.6	8.9	8.9
Hematocrit. (%)	34.4	34.8	32	33.6	33.5	34.9	30.6	30.9
Hb (gr/100 ml)	11.9	11.7	10.8	10.9	11.2	11.6	10.2	10.2
Leukocyte (10^3) mm	14.8	13.8	13.7	15	14.2	14.3	15.5	16.1

Virological findings: The observation of syncytia gave evidence of a cytopathic effect. Each syncytium contained 7–8 nuclei. Ultrastructural analysis revealed mature and gemmating viral particles on the cell surface and within the cytoplasm.

Pathological findings: Gross pathology: Animals 1–6 showed in dorsocaudal areas evidence of acute interstitial pneumonia, with interlobular edema and subpleural and interlobular interstitial emphysema. Animals 7 and 8 simultaneously showed lesions caused by fibrinous bronchopneumonia in cranioventral areas.

Histopathological findings: In animals 1–6, interstitial pneumonia was accompanied by a thickening of interalveolar septal due to abundant mononuclear infiltration. Clusters of inflammatory cells linked in syncytial configurations were visible in the alveolar and bronchial lumen. Animals 7 and 8 showed evidence of bronchiolitis obliterans with fibrino-cellular exudation, particularly in cranioventral areas.

Immunological findings: Fluorescence obtained with various antigens:

Animal	BRSV	IBRV	PI III virus	BVD virus	P.hemolyt.
1	1/640	—	—	—	—
2	1/640	—	—	—	—
3	1/640	—	—	—	—
4	1/320	—	—	—	—
5	1/320	—	—	—	—
6	1/640	—	1/20	—	—
7	1/640	—	—	—	1/320
8	1/320	—	—	—	1/320

Immunohistochemistry (PAP): Positive reactions were observed in non-ciliated cells of bronchial epithelia, in macrophages and mononuclear cells in the bronchial and alveolar lumen and in macrophages in the alveolar interseptum.

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