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Outbreak of Sudden Death Syndrome in Broiler Chicken in Kathmandu Valley, Nepal

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Abstract

The incidence of sudden death of broiler birds above 40 days suddenly increased in the month of August 2008 in Kathmandu valley. Birds that were presented for post-mortem examination in Central Veterinary Laboratory Tripureswor Kathmandu were usually found dead on their backs with wings outstretched. Incidence rate was recorded between 1.5 to 2.5% of the flock. The mean mortality due to sudden death syndrome was 1.3 - 9.6% and mortality usually occurs after 6 week of age. There are no outstanding gross lesions on post mortem examinations, except for muscle oedema, pulmonary, renal and liver congestion, and congestive splenomegaly. *Penicillium* spp., *Aspergillus* spp., *Candida* spp, *E.coli*, *Streptococcus* spp. and *Staphylococcus* spp. were the usual organisms isolated from culture samples of liver, lung, spleen and proventriculus. Reduction of mortality was achieved by feed restriction, supplementation of glucose containing electrolyte, liquid toxin binder, Immunomodulators, acidifier and antibiotic therapy. The condition seems to be related to fast growth rate. A practical approach seems to use diets with 5-7% reduction in nutrient density. The provision of more space and supportive treatment with anti-stress medicine may also be beneficial. This incidence of sudden death syndrome in birds in Kathmandu Valley was reported for the first time and needs to be investigated further.

Key word: Sudden death syndrome, broiler birds, Kathmandu Valley, Nepal.