



Fowl Cholera

Cause

Fowl cholera is caused by a bacterium: *Pasteurella multocida* (several serotypes).

Transmission

Transmission of fowl cholera is mainly from bird to bird by water or feed contamination. Rodents (rats and mice) also appear to play a role in contamination of water and feed with *Pasteurella multocida*.

Species affected

Chickens, turkeys, game birds and other bird species are susceptible.

Clinical signs

Affected birds are depressed and have decreased appetite. Egg production will drop 5-15 % and mortality will be high in acute fowl cholera. Birds that die from acute fowl cholera frequently have bluish combs and wattles. Chronic fowl cholera will not cause high mortality, although there will be an increase in deaths. Swollen wattles is a feature of chronic fowl cholera.

Internal lesions

Gross lesions in acute cases are mainly internal haemorrhage and congestion of liver, spleen and kidneys. In chronic fowl cholera cheesy exudates can be found between the intestines, and on liver and heart.

Treatment and control

Treatment with appropriate antibiotics or chemotherapeutics can be successful in halting mortality and restoring egg production. However chronic carrier birds have been found in flocks of chickens after treatment. If clinical fowl cholera with mortality reappears in such flocks, one must treat again. Rodent control is also very important to prevent reintroduction of the infection. Vaccines, both inactivated bacterins as well as live vaccines are available.