Fowl Cholera

Presentation: Pasteurella multocida Highly contagious
- Outbreaks most common in chickens, turkeys (most severe), ducks, geese
  - Young adults, physiologic stress (egg lay cycles), cooler seasons

1. **ACUTE form** (acute septicemia)
   - Fever, ruffled feathers, tachypnea, cyanosis (wattles, comb)
   - Mucoid mouth discharge, anorexia, diarrhea, dehydration, emaciation
   - Asymptomatic w/ sudden death; Survivors=chronically infected carriers

2. **CHRONIC form** (acute survivors or low virulence strain)
   - Asymptomatic OR
   - Localized infections throughout body
     - Wattles, sinuses, foot pads, sternal bursa, leg and wing joints
     - Exudative conjunctivitis; Respiratory tract- dyspnea, tracheal rales
     - Middle ear, meningeal infection- torticollis

Test of choice:
- Field diagnosis – clinical signs, lesions
- Necropsy- Acute form
  - Hyperemic abdominal visceral veins (duodenum), visceral ecchymotic/petechial hemorrhages
  - Pneumonia (turkeys), Pericardial & coelemic cavity fluid, hepatomegaly, coagulative necrosis

- Necropsy- Chronic form (Localized infections throughout body)
  - Caseous fibrinous exudate- calvarial bones, middle ear, meninges, air spaces
  - Suppurative lesions – respiratory tract, pneumatic bones
- Microscopic exam - Gram negative bipolar rod
- Bacterial culture and sensitivity

Rx of choice: Supportive care, Antibiotics (ie: Sulfas, Tets, Penicillin for sulfa-resistant strains)
(ABX NOT generally practical in commercial poultry)

Prevention: Eliminate reservoirs (carrier animals, sick & dead birds)
- Vaccination, strict biosecurity and sanitation protocols

Pearls: Chronically ill carrier birds, wild birds, rodents are reservoirs

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Zuku Review FlashNotes™

Classic Question(s)

What is the etiology of fowl cholera? Main reservoir?

List 2 forms of fowl cholera and their manifestations. How is fowl cholera diagnosed? Treated?

Name 4 key preventative measures for fowl cholera.