

BLACK QUARTER

It is an acute febrile disease of cattle (6 months to 2 years) characterized by lameness due to swelling in legs. Less often seen in sheep and goat

CAUSE

- *Clostridium chauvoei*

INCIDENCE/SUSCEPTIBILITY

- Cattle 6 months – 2 years: sheep also susceptible

TRANSMISSION

- Ingestion of spores
- Wound infection in sheep(castration, shearing, docking)

CLINICAL SIGNS

- Lameness
- High temperature
- Depression/ no feeding
- Swelling on the leg region especially hind limbs
- Skin over the swelling is greenish or blue in color
- On pressure the crepitating sound of gas is present
- Foamy discharge from nostrils
- bloat

LESIONS

- black discoloration of skin on affected area
- Upon incision, foul smelling dark colored fluid with gas bubbles
- Affected muscle appears black (Fig.1)
- Heart muscles also affected (Fig.2)

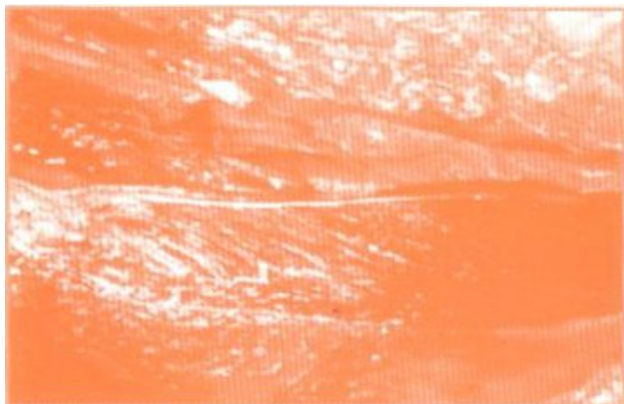


Fig.1

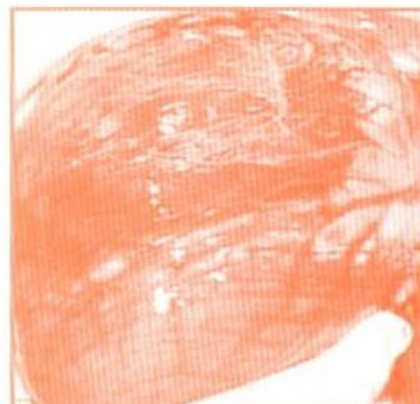


Fig.2

COLLECTION OF SAMPLES

Live animals	Dead animals	Preservative used
Blood smear from swelling in affected muscle	Impression smear from affected muscle	
	Pieces of muscle	In ice
	Affected muscle, heart and other tissues samples	10 percent formalin

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- Regular vaccination of animals between 6 months to 3 year old animals every year with black quarter vaccine
- Quarantine of infected animals
- Prevention of wound contamination
- Proper disposal and deep burial of dead animals and fomites
- Disinfection of the infected premises and fomites with bactericidal agents
- Antibiotic therapy

SAMPLE TESTING/FEES

S.NO	Diagnostic test	Sample	Cost in rupees/ sample
1.	Isolation of bacteria by culture	Swabs and tissues	Rs 250/-
2.	PCR	Swabs and tissues	Rs 500/-
3.	Examination of impression smear	Impression smears	Rs 30/-
4.	Examination of blood smear	Blood smears	Rs 30/-
5.	Biological testing in experimental animals	Swabs and tissues	Rs 250/-
6.	Histopathology	Tissues	Rs 200/-