



ABOUT

Fowl cholera is a contagious, bacterial disease of birds caused by *Pasteurella multocida*. Acutely, it causes elevated mortality. Chronically, it causes lameness, swollen wattles (in chickens), pneumonia (in turkeys), and torticollis, but it can also be asymptomatic. Both attenuated live vaccines and adjuvanted bacterins are available to aid in prevention, and it is sensitive to some antibiotics.

SIGNS

In chronic fowl cholera, signs and lesions are generally related to localized infections of the sternal bursae, wattles, joints, tendon sheaths, and footpads, which often are swollen because of accumulated fibrinosuppurative exudate. There may be lameness, as well as exudative conjunctivitis and pharyngitis. Torticollis may result when the meninges, middle ear, or cranial bones are infected.

TREATMENT

- Eradication of infection requires depopulation, followed by thorough cleaning and disinfection.
- Antibiotics may reduce mortality but won't eliminate *P multocida* from a flock.
- A number of drugs will lower mortality from fowl cholera; however, deaths may resume when treatment is discontinued,