

RETROSPECTIVE SURVEY (1996 & 2007) OF AVIAN METAPNEUMOVIRUS (AMPV) SERO-PREVALANCE IN LOCAL POULTRY FARMS IN MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

Avian Metapneumovirus (AMPV) infection previously known as Swollen Head Syndrome was first reported in South Africa in 1980. In Malaysia, serological evidence of AMPV infection was first reported in 1994, and clinical disease was reported in quails and broilers in the 1990s. In 2007, AMPV subtype B was detected. The objective of this study was to analyze and report on the findings of retrospective data on AMPV sero-prevalance in 1996 and 2007. The primary clinical manifestations and production parameters affected were anorexia, periocular oedema, drop in egg production and mortality. In this study, principal production parameters and common clinical manifestations of AMPV disease were analyzed for 21 and 58 poultry farms inclusive of layer, broiler breeder and broiler in 1996 and 2007 respectively. From the analysis, the sero-prevalence pattern of AMPV in poultry has not changed much with the exception of a significant increase ($P < 0.05$) in sero-prevalence for broilers. Anorexia and periocular oedema were reported to be significantly lower ($P < 0.05$) in all three groups of poultry in 2007 than in 1996. Higher mortality prevalence in farms were reported in 2007 than in 1996 with 65.5% and 57.1% respectively, however the difference was not significant ($P > 0.05$). Similarly, there was no significant difference ($P > 0.05$) for drop in egg production ($P > 0.05$) although the reported decreased in egg production in both layer and broiler breeder farms was more than 19%. This study showed that the key clinical manifestations of the disease has not changed substantially in 1996 and 2007, although there were differences in the reporting rates amongst farms and the effect of AMPV infection on mortality and egg production.

Keywords: AMPV, layer, broiler breeder, broiler, anorexia, periocular oedema, drop in egg production, mortality.

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