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Cysts Resembling Hydatids in a Chicken

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SUMMARY. Two large cysts recovered from the abdominal cavity of a domestic chicken superficially resembled hydatid cysts of *Echinococcus* spp. No protoscolices were present. Microscopic examination of the internal lining of one of the cysts revealed a single cuboidal to columnar, ciliated epithelium, leading to a diagnosis of oviduct cysts. Earlier records of hydatids of fowl are reviewed.

RESUMEN. *Reporte de Caso*—Quistes en un pollo semejantes a la hidatidosis.

Se encontraron dos quistes grandes en la cavidad abdominal de un pollo doméstico. Superficialmente los quistes parecían quistes hidatídicos de *Echinococcus* spp. No se encontraron escólecis o cabezas de la tenia. El examen microscópico de la pared interna de uno de los quistes mostró un epitelio ciliado, variando de cuboidal a columnar, conduciendo a un diagnóstico de quiste en el oviducto. Se revisan otros casos de hidatidosis en aves.

Previous reports of hydatid cysts from avian hosts are few (1,2,3,4). These records are old and cite chickens, turkeys, and peafowl as hosts. This

report describes hydatid cyst-like structures found in a domestic chicken.

CASE REPORT

During a routine classroom demonstration of avian anatomy, two conspicuous membranous cysts were found in the abdominal cavity of a barred rock hen. The bird had been purchased locally from a farmer near Greeley, Colorado. The larger cyst (Fig. 1) was 5 cm wide and was pearly white. The smaller cyst was irregular and 2 cm long. The former was attached by a short stalk to a mesentery, whereas the latter was unattached. Both appeared very much like hydatid cysts. No protoscolices were present, which is typical of hydatids in abnormal hosts.

The smaller cyst was sectioned, stained, and mounted on slides for study by standard technique. Internally it was subdivided into compartments (Fig. 2) somewhat similar to an alveolar hydatid. Close examination of the cyst lining revealed a single cuboidal to columnar ciliated epithelium (Fig. 3), quite unlike that of any species of cestode cyst. This led us to a diagnosis of oviduct cysts.

This finding suggests that earlier reports of hydatid cysts from fowl should be regarded with

Fig. 1. Entire cyst, 5 cm greatest width.

Figs. 2, 3. (2). Cross section of cyst. 8.7 $\times$. (3). Lining of cyst, showing ciliated epithelium. 87 $\times$.

caution, as they too may have been oviduct or other cysts.

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