Diagnostic Exercise
From The Davis-Thompson Foundation*

Case #: 141 Month: March Year: 2020

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Figure 1: Nestling pigeon. H&E.

Clinical History: Two 2-day-old nestling racing pigeons were submitted for postmortem examination and diagnostic work-up. Both birds belonged to a small racing pigeon loft in which massive mortality of nestlings had recently happened. A full necropsy was performed on both birds. Liver samples from both birds were collected, inoculated onto Mac Conkey and blood agar plates and incubated aerobically at 37°C for 24 h. In addition, several organs of both pigeons were sampled and fixed in 10% buffered formalin for 48 h, before being processed routinely to produce hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) sections.
Necropsy Findings: A remarkable atrophy of the bursas of Fabricius was noted in both birds.

Ancillary Testing: No bacterial growth was observed on the Mac Conkey and blood agar plates inoculated with liver from each bird.

Figure 2: Nestling pigeon. H&E.

Follow-up questions: Microscopic description; Morphologic diagnosis; Etiology; Etiologic diagnosis; Typical gross and microscopic findings.

*The Diagnostic Exercises are an initiative of the Latin Comparative Pathology Group (LCPG), the Latin American subdivision of The Davis-Thompson Foundation. These exercises are contributed by members and non-members from any country of residence. Consider submitting an exercise! A final document containing this material with answers and a brief discussion will be posted on the CL Davis website (http://www.cldavis.org/diagnostic_exercises.html).

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