Diagnostic Exercise
From The Davis-Thompson Foundation*

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Signalment: Nestling male great horned owl (Bubo virginianus)

Clinical History: The patient was found down and submitted to the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. Upon presentation, he was lethargic and in marginal body condition, but with no overt evidence of trauma. The patient was dehydrated, anemic (6% hematocrit), and hypoproteinemic (2.6 g/dL total protein), with thrombocytopenia and leukocytosis. Blood smear evaluation demonstrated abundant round to elongate, pale basophilic inclusions in immature erythrocytes and leukocytes that mildly distorted the cells and displaced the nuclei peripherally. The patient was euthanized due to poor prognosis and submitted for necropsy.

Laboratory Findings: Marginal body condition (BCS 3/9); dehydrated (~12%); anemia (PCV 6%); hypoproteinemia (2.6 g/dL); hepatomegaly (radiographic impression); blood smear (images below).
Necropsy Findings: The patient was in marginal body condition, with generalized pallor (anemia). The liver was enlarged (4.4% of body weight) with rounded margins. There was generalized pallor (pectoral muscles, viscera).
Follow up questions: Etiologic diagnosis; clinical and anatomic pathology findings associated with this disease.

*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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