CRYPTOCOCCAL GRANULOMATOUS DERMATITIS IN AN AFRICAN PARROT

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Cryptococcosis is considered mainly as a systemic mycosis caused by an encapsulated yeast like fungus with a worldwide distribution. There are several species of the genus Cryptococcus, however, *C. neoformans* is the species more frequently reported as a cause of disease in people, as well as in domestic and wild animals. The agent is most commonly isolated from soil contaminated with pigeon droppings. Aside from respiratory, central nervous and ocular, the cutaneous presentation is very rare in dogs and cats. To the author knowledge, dermal cryptococcosis in wild or captivate birds has no been reported.

Case presentation: a one year old, female African parrot (*Agapornis roseicollis*), was presented with an ulcerative mass of 3.0 cms. diameter located at the left distal phalange wing of 6 months evolution. It was removed by surgery, however due to local infiltration it could no be excised completely.

Dermatopathological findings: stained with Hematoxylin and Eosin (HE) the epidermis showed ulceration. In the ulcerated area a lot of free round to oval organisms measure 6 to 12 micrometer which stained faintly pale and eosinophilic and surrounded by a clear halo were observed. Throughout the dermis multiple granulomata were presented with identical microorganisms and among them macrophages and heterophilis cells were also seen. They stained positively with Gomori’s methanemine silver (GMS) and PAS. Moreover, cryptococcal like organism with clear halos against a blue background were visualized in a blue India ink preparation from a material collected with the swab seven days post biopsed. The same material was also cultured on Sabouraud’s agar, and identified as *Cryptococcus neoformans*.

References recommended


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