

OROPHARYNGEAL AND OESOPHAGEAL PATHOLOGY: A SENSITIVE INDICATOR
OR NATURALLY-INDUCED HYPOVITAMINOSIS A IN DOMESTIC FOWLS

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Abstract

A rare case of naturally-induced oropharyngeal and oesophageal pathological changes due to vitamin A deficiency was described in Yaffa layers, 18 week-old, brought to the Department of Veterinary pathology for postmortem examination. Grossly, there were numerous wide spread, grayish-white, raised and discrete nodules on the mucosa surfaces of the oropharynx and oesophagus with no visible lesions in the respiratory, urinary and genital tracts. Microscopically, there were irregular masses and elongated cords of keratinized oesophageal epithelia cells which were arranged haphazardly throughout the length of the epidermis. The upper dermis had markedly distended mucous glands and irregularly shaped islands of epithelial cells. It was concluded that oropharyngeal and oesophageal changes could be used as sensitive indicator of early vitamin A deficiency in avian species.

Key words: Oropharynx/oesophagus / epithelial cells/ pathological changes / Hypovitaminosis A.