

Percloacal Ovocentesis in the Treatment of Avian Egg Binding: Review of 20 Cases

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Abstract: Egg binding is one of the most commonly diagnosed reproductive disorders in avian medicine. Often, egg binding is caused by multiple factors including inappropriate diet and husbandry, reproductive tract pathology, and/or systemic disease. Treatment of egg binding can include medical management or egg removal either percloacal or through surgical means. Percloacal ovocentesis is a commonly described technique in avian practice. The aim of this study was to consider the signalment, success of facilitating egg removal, associated complications and outcome where percloacal ovocentesis was performed. Data was obtained from an avian first opinion and referral center in the United Kingdom over a ten-year period. Of the twenty cases that met the inclusion criteria 15 psittaciformes (75%), 1 anseriformes (5%), 2 accipitriformes (10%) and 2 strigiformes (10%) were represented. Patient age ranged from 2-26 years, with an average age of 9.4 years. Percloacal ovocentesis successfully facilitated egg removal in 16/20 cases (80%) with no complications observed in 14/20 cases (70%). Percloacal ovocentesis is not without potential complications; eggs fragmented in 2/20 (10%) cases, with coelomic penetration and coelomitis suspected in a single case (5%). Careful risk assessment and case selection should be performed prior to the use of this technique. In cases which are refractory to medical management, and where surgical intervention is high risk or not a feasible option, percloacal ovocentesis can facilitate successful resolution of egg binding in an avian patient and should be considered as a viable treatment option.