

FUNISITIS IN EQUINE PLACENTAS : 31 CASES

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Funisitis, inutero inflammation of the umbilical cord is a well recognized lesion in human placental pathology. Funisitis has not been reported in veterinary medicine although inflammation of the umbilical cord associated with placentitis has been reported. Funisitis was an important pathological finding in placentas from mares aborted during Mare reproductive loss syndrome. Thirty one equine placentas (not related to Mare reproductive loss syndrome) that had funisitis were studied in detail. Bacteria were isolated from the placenta of 13 cases. *Leptospira sp* and *Aspergillus sp* were isolated from the placenta in one case each and no organisms were isolated from the remaining 16 cases. Fetal diarrhea and meconium staining of the umbilical cord surface was identified in 10 cases. Histopathological changes in the allantochorion were observed in 24 cases and no changes were observed in 7 cases. Varying degrees of inflammation and mineralization were observed in all amnions. In majority of the cases, inflammatory cells were primarily granulocytes. The granulocytic infiltrates were restricted to the surface of the umbilical cord. The inflammatory lesions were mostly restricted to the segment of umbilical cord in the amnionic cavity. On the case that had *Aspergillus sp* infection, vasculitis was observed in the umbilical cord vessels. In conclusion when examining placenta, umbilical cord is an important structure that reveals changes related to fetal diarrhea and placentitis in equine abortions

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