

Pathogenicity of chicken anaemia virus (isolate 10343) for young and older chickens

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One-day-old chicks, inoculated intramuscularly (i.m.) with the chicken anaemia virus (CAV) isolate 10343, showed depression of body weight gain and anaemia, particularly between days 14 and 21 post-inoculation (p.i.). The weights of thymus and bursa were substantially reduced compared to controls at days 14 and 21 p.i. The histological lesions detected in thymus, bursa, spleen and liver were similar in frequency at days 14 and 21 p.i. Eosinophilic intranuclear inclusion bodies, lymphocyte depletion, and focal necrosis were detected in the thymus, spleen, bursa and liver of more than 50% of the inoculated chicks at days 14 and 21 p.i. Focal necrosis and vacuolar degeneration in the liver, as well as apoptosis in different organs were more evident at days 14 and 21 p.i. Ten-week-old broiler breeders, inoculated i.m. with isolate 10343 showed pathological changes that were less severe than the changes shown by 1-day-old chicks. No anaemia could be detected in this group. However, severe t