

CASEOUS LYMPHADENITIS

ETIOLOGY

Caseous lymphadenitis is caused by *Corynebacterium pseudo-tuberculosis*. The organism is found in manure and soil.

CLINICAL FINDINGS

The infection is introduced through skin wounds. These can occur at docking and shearing in sheep. Abscesses develop at the site of infection or in regional lymph nodes. Abscesses in the head and neck are most common. The abscesses can become quite large with a thick capsule. They may rupture and discharge an odorless, greenish pus.

The organism can spread through the lymphatics and produce visceral abscesses.

DIAGNOSIS

Diagnosis is made through physical examination and isolation of the organism. There is not a reliable serologic test. Draining lymph nodes is sufficient evidence for rejection of an exhibited animal.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

Sheep and goats with draining sores should be culled. Abscesses can be surgically removed or cauterized in valuable animals. Penicillin may be effective. All shearing and docking equipment should be disinfected. Any cuts should be treated.

Our primary concern is to keep affected animals from being exhibited. We may be asked for advice on treatment and control.