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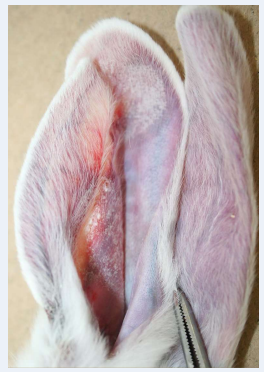




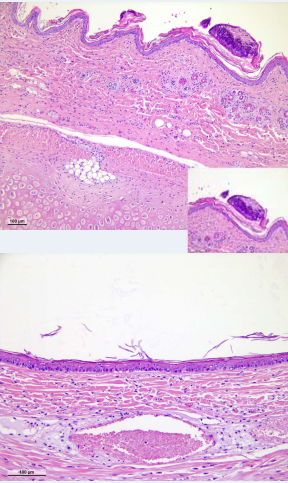
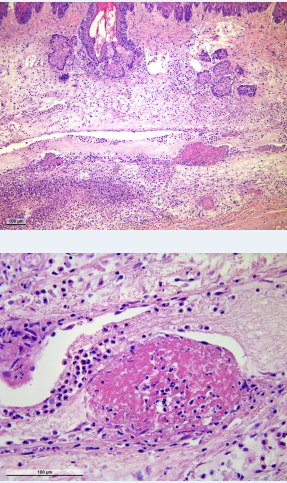
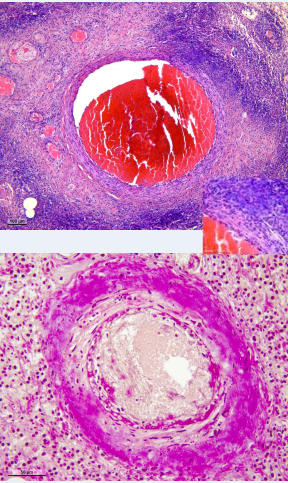
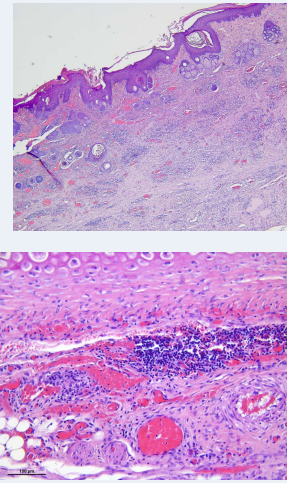
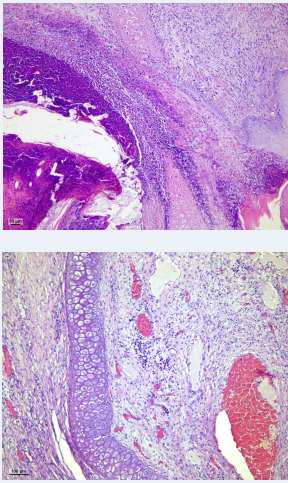
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INTRODUCTION

- Peculiar skin lesions, specifically targeting the ear pinna, have been sporadically recorded by the practitioners in different farms of commercial fattening rabbits
- Affected pinnae were reported to appear reddish, thickened and oedematous and/or haemorrhagic with the development, within a few days, of necrosis and pinnal deformation
- The aim of this study was to analyze the pathomorphological features of these lesions and verify the possible presence of associated bacterial infections
- Ten subjects were collected during 5 episodes of pinnal lesions manifested in 3 different farms and submitted for post-mortem examination
- FFPE samples of the affected pinnae were submitted to routine histopathological procedures (n=8)
- Swabs from the affected pinnae (n=6), from adjacent purulent lesions (n=3) and from central nervous system (CNS, n=6) were submitted to routine bacterial procedures

MATERIALS & METHODS

RESULTS

<h3>EPISODE 1</h3>  <p>Bilateral reddish discoloration and multifocal hyperkeratosis (1 subject)</p>	<h3>EPISODE 2</h3>  <p>Bilateral dark red discoloration and mild thickening (4 subjects)</p>	<h3>EPISODE 3</h3>  <p>Monolateral dark red discoloration, moderate thickening with edema, exudation, focal vesicle and purulent otitis (2 subjects)</p>	<h3>EPISODE 4</h3>  <p>Monolateral sharp ulceration/necrosis and contralateral ear base abscess (1 subject)</p>	<h3>EPISODE 5</h3>  <p>Monolateral dry necrosis and pinnal distortion (2 subjects)</p>
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crusts/pustules with superficial bacteria, moderate orthokeratosis and mild interstitial chronic mixed inflammation with (peri)vascular edema and severe congestion Ear swab tested negative <i>Pasteurella multocida</i> (PM) + from purulent rhinitis 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe heterophilic and necrotizing dermatitis with vasculitis and thrombosis 2/3 ear swabs PM + 1/3 in association with <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (SA) 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe chronic mixed dermatitis with vasculitis, perivascular Gram-negative bacteria and severe congestion 2/2 ear swabs PM + 2/2 with visceral dissemination (isolation of PM from CNS) 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate ulcerative and fibrosing perivascular to interstitial chronic mixed dermatitis with mild vascular damage, severe congestion and multifocal haemorrhages Ear base abscess PM + in association with SA 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe chronic ulcerative dermatitis with cartilage necrosis and severe fibrosis 2/2 mandibular abscesses PM + 1/2 with visceral dissemination (isolation of PM from CNS in association with SA)

Additional gross findings included mucopurulent oculonasal discharge (n=10), purulent otitis (n=4), abscesses/cellulitis (n=5) and (fibrino)purulent (pleuro)pneumonia (n=3).

CONCLUSIONS

These cases of necrohaemorrhagic pinnal inflammation appear peculiar and associated with dermal vascular lesions. They differ from the classical apostematous pattern of cutaneous pasteurellosis in rabbits, however, given the presence of intralesional Gram-negative bacteria and the isolation of PM, they may represent an unusual form of cutaneous pasteurellosis.