DIFFICULTIES IN PARATUBERCULOSIS MANAGEMENT

Samarineanu M.¹, R. Miciora²

¹National Society „PASTEUR INSTITUTE”- Bucharest
²College of Romanian Veterinary Medicins

Key words: paratuberculosis, control, management

SUMMARY

Paratuberculosis (Johne’s disease) is a chronic granulomatous enteritis, produced by Mycobacterium paratuberculosis (Mycobacterium avium ssp. paratuberculosis) characterised by long evolution, insidious debut, intermitently then continuous untreatable diarrhea, progressive weight loss and death. Economic consequences are severe.

Paratuberculosis is signaled in many countries from all continents, but its prevalence is not well known and control measures are different.

This work trys to present paratuberculosis as a management problem.

The difficulties in paratuberculosis control are presented. The reviewed aspects refer to Etio-pathogeny, Immune response, Clinical signs, Lesions, Limits of diagnosis methods, Intra- and inter-species transmissibility, Treatment, Profilaxy, Economic loses, Costs.

Zoonotic potential of this disease is also discussed.

The mainly problems in management of paratuberculosis seem to be the following:

- long time distance between: infection and clinical disease, infection and immunological conversion, immunological conversion and clinical disease, bacili-excretor status and clinical disease;
- incertitude of negative results of diagnosis methods → real prevalence hard to establish;
- relative concordance between different diagnosis methods in different stages of the disease;
- the existence of asimptomatic bacili-excretors (domestic/wild ruminants; non-ruminants animals) and of multiple excretion ways;
- there is no laboratory animal for diagnosis;
- there is no efficacy treatment;
- efficacy of vaccines;
- specific production losses hard to evaluate;
- important costs of control measures.

There are reviewed new data sustaining zoonotic character of paratuberculosis.