84. EPITHELIOGENESIS IMPERFECTA IN CHURRA LAMBS

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Introduction

Epitheliogenesis imperfecta or aplasia cutis is a rare condition in sheep, characterized by an inherited congenital discontinuity of squamous epithelium. We report the main pathological findings observed in several cases of this disease.

Materials and methods

A total of 19 newborn lambs, belonging to three different flocks of Churra sheep, sharing males, were grossly examined, and samples from skin, tongue, oral mucosa and oesophagus were microscopically studied.

Results

In all the cases, at birth, a complete absence of the epidermis and a very congestive dermis was seen in different areas of the body. All the lambs showed lesions in the distal parts of the limbs and, in 11 lambs, the detachment of one or several hooves was seen. Secondly, the pinnae were affected, uni or bilaterally, in 16 animals, together with shortening and fusion of the auricular cartilage. The tongue and hard palate were affected in 12 cases. In a lower number of lambs, the tail, thigh, periocular region or wide areas of the back, were also affected. Histologically, the absence of the epidermis and hair follicles and glands was observed.

Conclusions

Differences in the severity and location of the lesions are observed among lambs affected of epitheliogenesis imperfecta.