

Caseous lymphadenitis in goats: The dose of infection and the serological response

Kuria, J K N; Wahome, R G; Kangethe, E K

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Abstract:

Goats were infected intradermally with caseous pus containing between 1×10^5 and 5×10^1 colony forming units(CFU) of *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*. Animals infected with doses of equal and above 1×10^2 CFU of the organism developed caseous lesions in regional draining lymphnodes while those infected with lesser doses developed none. On serological examination, 3/6 animals infected with equal to or less than 1×10^3 CFU and 2/4 infected with equal to or less than 1×10^2 CPU had no positive bacterial agglutination and antitoxin antibody titres respectively. These results indicated that caseous lymphadenitis (CLA) is a highly contagious disease since a relatively low dose (1×10^2 CPU) of *C. pseudotuberculosis* injected intradermally could induce CLA lesions in draining lymphnodes. The serological response in terms of rate and extent appeared to depend on the dose of infection.