

Pathology Report

Submitter Ref.: H285	Date Sent: 20/02/2020	Accession No.: 58660
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To: [REDACTED]
Department of Conservation
Fiordland

Report Sent: 22/07/2020

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Email: [REDACTED]

Species: Cetacean	Breed: Hector's Dolphin		
Age: Adult	Sex: Female		
Owner: DOC			Type: Post Mortem
ID: H285			Prev. Accn.:
Submitted:	At Risk:	Affected:	Dead:

History

Reported 10/12/19 on Milford Sound foreshore. Brought to Te Anau unexpectedly by member of the public on 12/12/19.

Gross Findings

This dolphin was presented frozen and was thawed for necropsy. The body was in a reasonable state of post mortem preservation (code 2/3) and in moderate/poor body condition, with a moderately pronounced 'neck' and moderate epaxial muscle atrophy. Blubber depth (lateral) was 13mm. There were multiple linear cracks in the skin (post mortem artefact), and marked sloughing of the outer skin layers. Scavenger damage was present around the anogenital orifice. Small numbers of healed skin lesions and occasional superficial rake marks were present. The right eye was missing, with only tattered remnants of the optic nerve remaining (as seen on original DOC images; likely due to bird scavenging). Several teeth are missing from the left mandibular and maxillary arcades; 2 individual teeth are missing from the right maxillary arcade.

The mammary gland was well developed but no milk was apparent grossly.

There were numerous blubber cestodes along the ventrum.

The right lung contained several small (5-20mm) irregular pale dry foci (necrosis), one superficially and one deeper in the parenchyma.

The stomach was empty, with a focal area (approximately 3cm diameter) of ulceration in the squamous stomach.

The right ovary contained an apparent CL. Both uterine horns were distended, and linear streaks were present on the serosal surface of the uterine body and horns. The vestibule contained thick cloudy fluid, while the body and horns contained red-tinged watery fluid. A pedunculated soft tan oval mass, approximately 15mm long, was attached to the mucosa of the right uterine horn.

There was a pale firm nodule approximately 25mm x 20mm at the cranial pole of the right kidney.

Diagnosis

1. Pneumonia - chronic, granulomatous
2. Uterine polyp
3. Renal adenoma (benign kidney tumour)
4. Adrenal cyst

Comments

The most clinically significant lesion in this dolphin is the pneumonia, which is severe enough to have caused marked illness. The pattern of histological lesions in the lung is seen with a number of different causes of pneumonia, including parasites, fungi and mycobacteria; however no infectious agents could be detected microscopically, so a definitive cause can't be identified.

The other changes noted at gross necropsy (masses in the kidney, adrenal and uterus) are unusual but are all benign, and unlikely to have had an impact on the health of the animal.

There is no evidence of a human-induced cause of death (eg entanglement) of this dolphin.

Date: 18/06/2020	Pathologists: [REDACTED]
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Students: