



Quality Veterinary Diagnostics
from Disease to Optimal Health

Newsletter 11 / 2016



We are pleased to welcome you to the monthly BattLab newsletter. This newsletter will bring you the latest news and information about our laboratory and all tests that we can offer to all our clients.

Seminars 2017

We are pleased to continue with our very successful **series of seminars in 2017**. Every seminar has a focus on a special topic like Haematology, Dermatology or like the latest one on reptiles medicine.

BattLab seminars are addressed **to all veterinarians** and can be counted for their **CPD record**.

Keep an eye to our [Facebook page](#) for more information about our upcoming seminar series in 2017.



Event reminder

We are very happy to announce that one of our clinical pathologists, Francesco Cian, will give a talk for the **Warwickshire Veterinary Clinical Club** this month. It is the second lecture of the WVCC's Season 2016-17 and we are pleased to be part of it.

Title: "Diagnostic approach to canine lymphoproliferative diseases"

Date: Tuesday 15th of November 2016

Starting: 19:30

Venue: Holiday Inn Leamington Spa - Warwick,
Olympus Avenue, CV34 6RJ Leamington Spa

Speaker: *Francesco Cian*, DVM, DipECVP, MRCVS,
RCVS Specialist in Veterinary Clinical Pathology.



20:00- Talk

For more information and registration, contact:

[Contact Warwickshire Veterinary Clinical Club - WVCC](#)

We are looking forward to see you there.

BattLab at the London Vet Show



We are looking forward to meeting you at our stand at the London Vet Show during 17th and 18th November 2016.

For more information keep an eye to our [Facebook page](#).

Haemotropic Mycoplasma infection in cats

Haemotropic Mycoplasmas are small rickettsial organisms that can cause severe haemolytic anaemia in cats. There are three main species that are distributed worldwide, with varying prevalence and associated clinical signs. *Mycoplasma haemofelis* is the most pathogenic species and acute infection can result in severe haemolytic anaemia. The most common clinical signs in acutely infected ill cats with severe anaemia include tachypnoea, depression, anorexia, weight loss, and pale or icteric mucous membranes. Splenomegaly may also occur.

Of all the species, this is the one that can be observed more frequently on stained blood smears, because of its size, and mainly during the acute phase of the disease. They appear as rod, coccoid, and ring-shaped structures, found individually or in chains on the surface of red blood cells (Figure 1). **Fresh smears are essential** to visualise the microorganisms on the membranes of red blood cells, because they tend to detach from erythrocytes during storage in EDTA. Moreover, their identification is commonly left to experienced personnel because false positive may occur due to stain precipitate artefacts, drying artefacts, Howell Jolly bodies, basophilic stippling and siderotic inclusions.

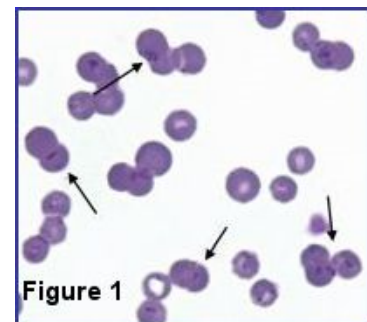


Figure 1. *Mycoplasma haemofelis* organisms on the surface of red blood cells in a cat with severe haemolytic anaemia (Wright Giemsa, 50x)

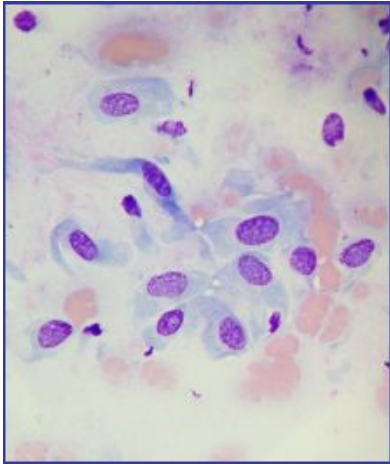
Candidatus Mycoplasma haemominutum and *Candidatus Mycoplasma turicensis* have also been described in the cat and commonly cause a chronic, subclinical infection. However, haemolytic anaemia may occur with these species but is mainly associated with concurrent retroviral infections (FeLV, FIV) or other diseases. Unfortunately, these organisms are infrequently observed on blood films owing to their small size.

PCR assays are available and represent the diagnostic test of choice for this disease. Testing is commonly performed on EDTA blood samples and is highly sensitive and specific. A positive result does not always equate with clinical illness, and therefore, PCR results should be interpreted in conjunction with clinical findings. This may occur when organisms are incidentally observed in carrier cats with other diseases.

For more information about this and other PCR testing do not hesitate to [contact the laboratory](#).

Cytology picture of the month

This picture is from an **aspirate from a left forelimb mass** in an adult English Springer Spaniel dog (Wright Giemsa, 50x). **What is your diagnosis?**



Description

The aspirate is slightly haemodiluted and harvested an adequate number of well-preserved nucleated cells. These appear elongated and form poorly cohesive groups. Cells have moderate amounts of elongated, basophilic cytoplasm, with poorly defined cytoplasmic borders. Nuclei are oval, paracentral, with coarse granular chromatin, and one to two round nucleoli. Anisocytosis (cell size variation) and anisokaryosis (nuclear size variation) are moderate.

Interpretation

Mesenchymal proliferation, suggestive of soft tissue sarcoma

Comment

The aspirate harvested a poorly cohesive group of spindle cells. This cell shape is commonly associated with a mesenchymal origin and in this case indicates the presence of a mesenchymal proliferation. Cells display only moderate features of atypia therefore both reactive fibroplasia and mesenchymal neoplasia should be considered as possible differentials. Since there is evidence of a growing, well-distinct mass and there is no history of previous trauma in the area, soft tissue sarcoma is considered very likely. In those cases, surgical excision of the mass and histopathological examination are recommended in order to confirm the diagnosis, grading and further characterizing the neoplasia and evaluating surgical margins. Morphology, grade and surgical margins are all considered important prognostic factors.

For more information about our cytology service please visit our [website](#).

60 seconds with...

We hear from Emily Brough, Laboratory Technician at BattLab.

How long have you been at BattLab?

I have worked at Battlab for 8 years now.

What is your role at BattLab?

I am a Laboratory Technician at BattLab with a special focus in haematology and microbiology.



What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I have many hobbies which keep me busy: Knitting and sewing, playing board games and going to the cinema. I also like reading - one of my favourites is Harry Potter - and listening to Muse. As for TV shows I really like Game of Thrones.

Yours sincerely,

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The BattLab team

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