Parasitic Aortopathy due to *Onchocerca armillata* in Cattle

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Key Words

Parasitic aortopathy

Aortal calcifications in cattle

Onchocerca armillata

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In the West Sudan (Provinces Darfur and Kordafan) and in some other tropical countries in Africa the parasitic aortopathy in cattle due to *Onchocerca armillata* is quite common. At the autopsy, there are striking lesions in the thoracic aorta, particularly in the aortic arch showing marked focal nodular thickening of the intima and adventitia, peculiar tortuous tunnels in the intima, calcified plaques, and occasionally small intimal ulcerations with parietal thrombosis. Histologically, there were numerous parasitic nodules with male and female worms and occasional tracks in the fibrous thickened intima. Some of the parasites were alive surrounded by necrotic, PAS-positive material and fibrous tissue. There was usually only minimal inflammatory reaction in the vicinity. Other parasites were dead and calcified. Foreign body giant cell reaction could be observed very occasionally. In the media, small scars with slight lymphocytic and eosinophilic infiltration and some siderophages occurred. In the adventitia apart from fibrous thickening and dilated lymphatic vessels, several, often calcified, parasitic nodules were present. The microfilariae of *Onchocerca armillata* have been found in peripheral blood. The infection is transmitted by 'black flies' (of *Simulium* species).