

# View Abstract

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**CONTROL ID:** 4153539

**TITLE:** Lead toxicosis in a Sun Conure

**PRESENTATION TYPE:** Poster Presentation Only

**CURRENT CATEGORY/DISCIPLINE:** Pathology | Toxicology

**ABSTRACT BODY:**

**Narrative:** A female sun conure (age not reported) was submitted to the Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (PRDL) for necropsy. History included recent purchase and airline travel; the bird had a good appetite and had been eating fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as a commercial pet bird diet provided by the breeder. No clinical signs were observed before the bird was found dead 10 days after airline travel. Grossly, the proventriculus was prominently dilated; the duodenum was congested and dilated with watery content, and the pancreas was congested. PCR for avian influenza was negative; bacterial and fungal culture of multiple organs was negative. Histologically, the tunica muscularis of the proventriculus was markedly atrophic. Ganglia were rarely identifiable, but rare nerve cell bodies had hypereosinophilic cytoplasm and a condensed nucleus. Additional histologic lesions included rare myodegeneration of the muscularis of the ventriculus, atrophy of the muscularis of the duodenum and jejunum, and mild interstitial edema of the muscularis of the crop. Myodegeneration of skeletal muscle was mild, and degenerative changes of cardiac muscle were subtle. Avian bornavirus (proventricular dilatation disease) PCR performed on brain and intestine at the University of Georgia's Infectious Disease Laboratory was negative. Lead, as part of a heavy metal panel performed at the Michigan Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory on a pooled organ sample, was elevated (87.83 ug/g dry weight), consistent with lead toxicosis; tissue lead levels >20 ug/g are considered within the toxic range at the Michigan VDL. Lead toxicosis has been reported as a differential for avian proventricular dilatation disease and a cause of proventricular impaction; however, case reports or descriptions of histologic lesions in the proventriculus are limited.

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**KEYWORDS:** lead toxicity, proventricular dilatation, avian histopathology.

**AWARD INFORMATION:**

**AWARDS:**

**TRAINEE TRAVEL AWARD DOCUMENTS (if applicable):**

**Trainee Travel Award - Biographical Data Sheet:** (none)

**Trainee Travel Award - Letter of Support:** (none)

**Trainee Travel Award - Trainee Letter:** (none)

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**Pathology Trainee Travel Award - Biographical Data Sheet:** (none)

**ABSTRACT DETAILS:**

**AAVLD Publication Authorization:** Yes, I agree

**Attendance Confirmation:** The abstract submitter will attend the annual meeting In person.

**USAHA Membership:** No



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