

## POSTER ABSTRACTS

### Veterinary Pathology: Exotic, wildlife & zoo animals

#### 195 | FATAL NECROTIC-HAEMORRHAGIC PANCREATITIS ASSOCIATED WITH VIBRIO HARVEYI INFECTION IN A SPINY BUTTERFLY RAY (GYMNURA ALTAVELA)

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#### **Background**

Pancreatitis is a common mild finding in dead elasmobranchs, mostly attributed to parasite migration. However, it is rarely associated with severe clinical symptoms or as a primary cause of death. To date, no bacterial agents have been clearly associated to fatal pancreatitis in elasmobranchs.

#### **Materials & Methods**

An adult male spiny butterfly ray (*Gymnura altavela*), housed in a private aquarium under human care, showed non-specific signs of weakness. Despite treatment, the animal's condition deteriorated rapidly and, following its death, it was referred to IUSA to perform pathological investigation. Samples were taken for histological study and bacterial culture.

#### **Results**

The main macroscopic finding was a focal (2-3 cm) greenish-white necrotic area in the pancreas. Cutting this lesion revealed a purulent exudate. In addition, scattered white foci were observed throughout the pancreatic tissue. Microscopically, extensive areas of pancreatic necrosis with severe inflammatory reaction and haemorrhage were observed. Moreover, multifocal infiltrations of inflammatory cells (granulocytes and macrophages) were present in the interacinar spaces. *Vibrio harveyi* was isolated from a sample of the pancreas.

#### **Conclusion**

This work describes the histopathological findings of a severe necrotic-haemorrhagic pancreatitis and its association with *Vibrio harveyi* infection as potential cause of death in a spiny butterfly ray.