FAO Presentation FSCL

Update on suspected anthrax outbreak in Kuajok

25th May, 2022

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Introduction

- Anthrax is a widespread zoonotic disease caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*.
- The organisms (spore) can stay on soil for over a decade.
- Animals get infected when they graze on infected grazing area.
- Humans get infection from domestic livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, buffaloes, pigs and others) or wild game animals.
- Humans get infected by direct or indirect contact with animals or their products.
  - Persons may also become infected by handling or consuming meat from animals that are sick with or have died of the disease.
  - Exposure (occupational hazards) include those handling infected carcasses and those employed in the processing of bones, hides, wool and other animal products.
Anthrax in livestock

Signs and symptoms

• Sudden death (abrupt fever, staggering, trembling, breathing difficulty, convulsions depression and death,
• Blood oozing from natural openings (mouth, nose and anus)
• Bloat (swollen stomach in short period)
• No rigor mortis (No stiffness of body after death)

• Jok Nyial in Dinka
• Nyakalokan in Toposa
• Nyongi Durjo in Bari
Control and prevention

• Vaccination of livestock (animal vaccine available)
• Avoid grazing in infected grazing areas
• Treatment with antibiotics (but often difficult due to sudden death)
• No opening and eating of animals that died from anthrax
• Safe disposal dead animals
Anthrax control in humans

• The control of anthrax is based on its prevention in livestock.
• Prevention in humans are costly and likely to be ineffective.
• Treatment with antibiotics
Threat of biological warfare/terrorist attacks

- Anthrax bacteria can be used in preparation of biological weapons
- **Developed during world war-1 and world war-II.**
- In 2001, envelopes containing the B. anthracis organism were sent through the envelopes to people in United States affecting 22 people.
- Is easily produced (in laboratory) and lasts for a long time once disbursed.
- It's odorless, colorless and tasteless
Kuajok anthrax update

• In February 2022, suspected anthrax cases were detected at the Kuajok hospital.
• In April 2022, 8 Human samples tested positive by PCR for bacillus anthracis from a regional laboratory in Arua Uganda.
• Most of the reported human cases are cutaneous.
• 17 – 24\textsuperscript{th} May one health joint investigation in Warrap.
• In livestock there are reports of deaths in small ruminants in Gogrial and Tonj North.
• Livestock samples collected for laboratory confirmation.
• Ongoing vaccinations on small and large ruminants.
• Awareness messaging on radios in Warrap and Juba (Eye radio) ongoing.