Examining of carcasses and judgements

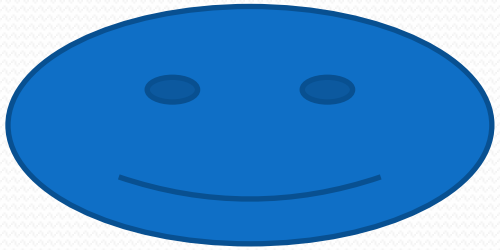
Carcass judgement

Trimming or condemnation may involve:

1. Any portion of a carcass or a carcass that is abnormal or diseased.

2. Any portion of a carcass or a carcass affected with a condition that may present a hazard to human health.

3. Any portion of a carcass or a carcass that may be repulsive to the consumer.



Localized versus generalized conditions

It is important to differentiate between a localized or a generalized condition in the judgement of an animal carcass.

In a localized condition, a lesion is restricted by the animal defense mechanisms to a certain area or organ.

Systemic changes associated with a localized condition may also occur. Example: jaundice caused by liver infection or toxaemia following pyometra (abscess in the uterus).

In a generalized condition, the animal's defense mechanisms are unable to stop the spread of the disease process by way of the circulatory or lymphatic systems. The lymph nodes of the carcass should be examined if pathological lesions are generalized.

Some of the signs of a generalized disease are:

1. Generalized inflammation of lymph nodes including the lymph nodes of the head, viscera and/or the lymph nodes of the carcass.

2. Inflammation of joints.

3. Lesions in different organs including liver, spleen kidneys and heart.

4. The presence of multiple abscesses in different portions of the carcass including the spine of ruminants.

Generalized lesions usually require more severe judgement than localized lesions.

Acute versus chronic conditions

Acute condition

An acute condition implies that a lesion has developed over a period of some days, whereas a chronic condition implies the development of lesions over a period of some weeks, months or years.

A subacute condition refers to a time period between an acute and chronic condition.

The acute stage is manifested by inflammation of different organs or tissues, enlarged haemorrhagic lymph nodes and often by petechial haemorrhage of the mucosal and serous membranes and different organs such as heart, kidney and liver.

Chronic conditions

In a chronic condition, inflammation associated with congestion is replaced by adhesions, necrotic and fibrotic tissue or abscesses. The judgement in the chronic stage is less severe and frequently the removal of affected portions is required without the condemnation of the carcass.

However, judgement on the animal or carcass judgement tends to be more complicated in subchronic and sometimes in peracute stages. If generalized necrotic tissue is associated with previous infection, carcass must be condemned.

Rest

General

Examine carcasses including :

- musculature
- exposed bones
- joints
- tendon sheaths

to determine any signs of disease or defect.

Attention should be paid to bodily condition, efficiency of bleeding, colour, condition of serous membranes (pleura and peritoneum), cleanliness and presence of any unusual odours.

Lymph nodes

-Superficial inguinal (male)

- Palpate Supramammary (female)

- Palpate (a) External and internal iliac

- Palpate (b) Prepectoral

- Palpate Popliteal

- Palpate (only sheep/goats and game/antelope) Renal

- Palpate (cattle, horses, pigs) or incise if diseases is suspected. Prescapular & prefemoral

Some examples of judgment after the examining:

-Rabies: total condemnation

-Tuberculosis: total condemnation

-Rinderpest: total condemnation

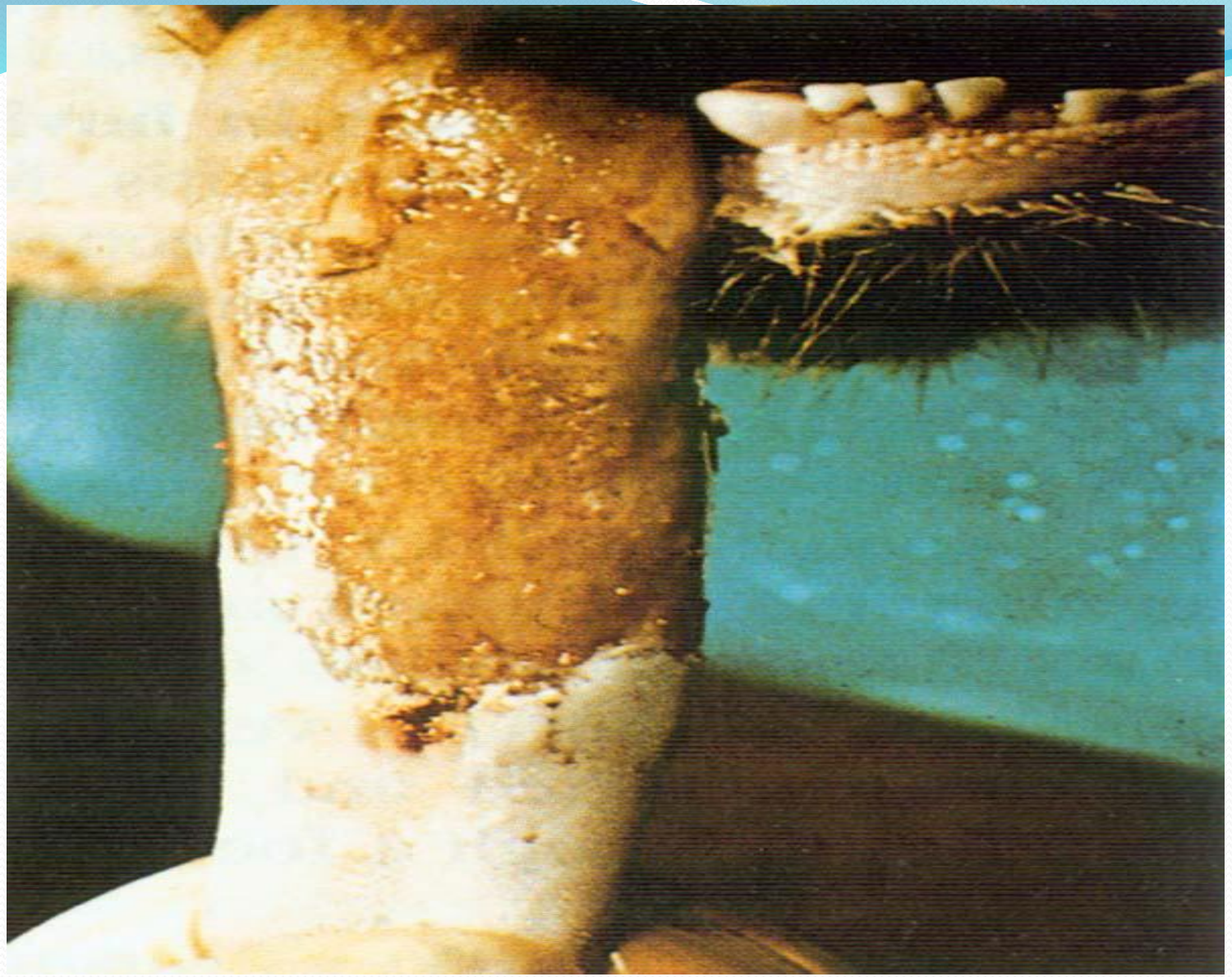
-F.M.D.: febrile condition total condemnation

-Black quarter (Black leg): total condemnation

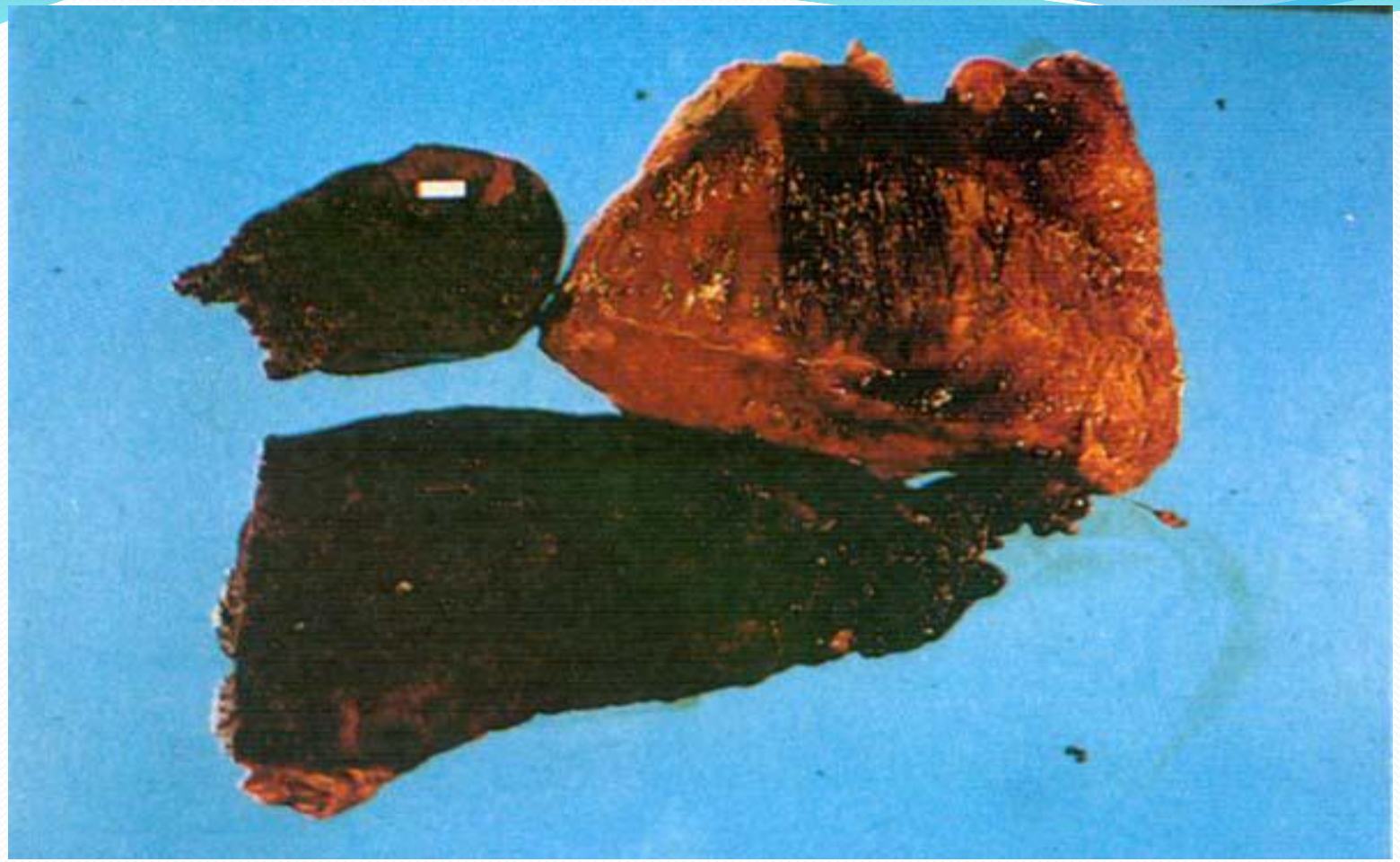
-Parasitism: conditional passing

-Abscess: conditional passing

Liver abscesses caused by Fusobacterium necrophorum



FMD. Extensive areas of eroded epithelium on a bovine tongue.



Black leg. Dark-red skeletal muscle of a heifer showing haemorrhage, necrosis, edema and emphysema..

Tuberculous granuloma in the mediastinal lymph nodes. M. bovis was isolated.

Lesion of tuberculosis in the lungs

Numerous flukes of Fasciola hepatica observed in the bile ducts and liver parenchyma of a cow.

Thank you