

Avian Gastric Yeast (AGY, megabacteriosis, *Macrorhabdus ornithogaster*)

This microorganism was long referred to as a giant bacteria but has been proven to be a fungus. More specifically a yeast. Avian Gastric Yeast infections are an increasing problem in cockatiels, budgerigars, lovebird, grass parakeets, finches, canaries and a variety of other avian species.

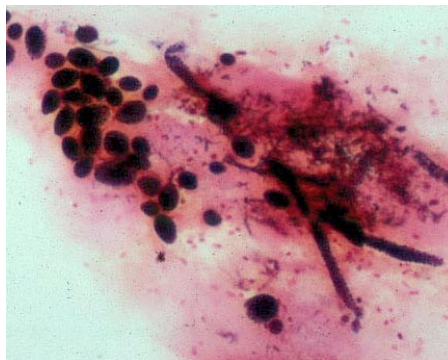
The fungus grows near the stomach lining and affects function while creating inflammation. The patient may regurgitate, act depressed and lose weight.

Diagnosis of this infection is by fecal analysis, either a “direct smear” or a gram stain. Research methods have included fluorescent microscopy, electron microscopy, and DNA analysis.

Depending on the bird species, oral anti-fungals are administered for minimum of 30days.

Followup is very important as controlled studies and clinical experience suggest relapse rates after treatment exceeding 30% of cases. Infected birds are considered contagious Exposed birds may or may not become infected.

There is no evidence that Avian Gastric Yeast presents any risks to humans or



other types of household pets.