

CASEOUS LYMPHADENITIS

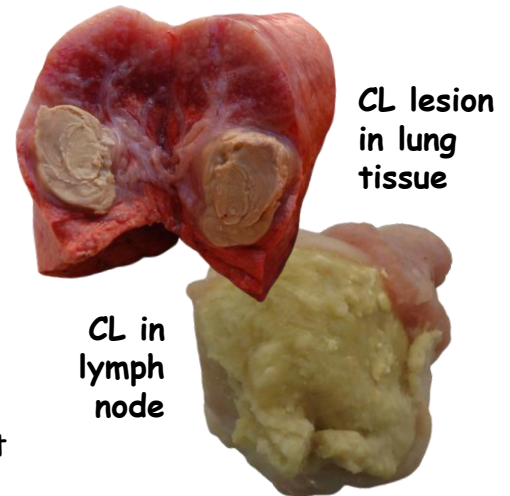
Caseous lymphadenitis (CL) is a bacterial infection caused by *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*. There are two forms: external and internal. The external form is found more commonly in goats and presents as abscesses in the peripheral lymph nodes. The internal form of CL is more common in sheep. Wasting can occur due to the internal abscesses interfering with normal organ function.



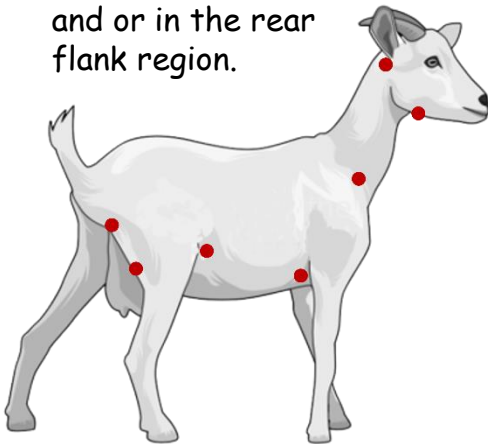
CL is spread from animal to animal through contact with material from abscesses or objects contaminated with pus. It can be spread at shearing. Transmission may also be via respiratory secretions.

There are two ways to test for the presence of CL. The most accurate is to culture the bacteria in abscess material.

The other method is blood testing to detect antibodies to the bacteria that causes CL.



External abscesses are found mostly behind the ears, beneath the jaw or neck, on the shoulders, and or in the rear flank region.



Animals are infected for life. There is no cure for CL. Antibiotics are ineffective. However, abscesses should be treated to prevent ruptures and further contamination of other animals and the environment. They can be drained or surgically removed. Abscesses should be washed with hydrogen peroxide and flushed with iodine.

Animals with abscesses should be quarantined until the abscess has completely healed and the causative organism is determined. Not all abscess are CL.



Vaccination may decrease the incidence or severity of disease. There are different vaccines for sheep and goats. The sheep vaccine should not be used in goats. Vaccines should not be used in naïve flocks/herds.



To keep CL out of your flock/herd, you should avoid purchasing animals with visible abscesses. All new animals should be quarantined for at least 30 days. To eradicate CL, cull all animals with abscesses and any animal that tests positive for CL antibodies.