The presence or absence of viral-DNA (APV – Avian polyomavirus known also as BFD (Budgerigar fledgling disease) and PBFD – Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease (circovirus)) in the sample was tested by duplex PCR analysis.

PBFD is generally characterized by dystrophy and loss of feathers. The feather dystrophy is caused by necrosis and hyperplasia of epidermal cells. Beak deformations are not always present; it probably depends on the bird kind and other factors. These symptoms themselves do not result in death of the bird. The circovirus impairs the immune system of the affected bird (it has immune-suppressive effect) and the death is caused by secondary infections.

The course of polyomavirus infection depends on kind and age of the host (bird) and other factors that has not been clarified so far. Almost all APV infections in adult birds are asymptomatic. A combined APV and PBFD infection may occur when a bird becomes infected with APV as a result of immunosuppressive effect of PBFD-infection. In this case, even adult birds show clinical signs of APV- infection and the bird dies.

There are no medication therapies for these diseases. It is important to adhere to preventive actions at the level of breeding organisation, hygiene and preventive testing of apparently healthy birds. In case of a positive result, we recommend to separated the affected bird from other birds and collaborate with the vet. If a sample taken from a symptomless bird is tested positive for PBFDV, we recommend repeating the test after 2 to 3 months.

Method: SOP17, multiplex PCR

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