CASE R14-546

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Signalment and History

Female yearling California sea lion found stranded
Admitted to The Marine Mammal Center
Gross Findings

Body condition 2/5, minimal autolysis

Multiple pleural adhesions, abundant thick light-brown purulent exudate
Morphologic Diagnosis

Meningoencephalitis, histiocytic, multifocal, severe with extracellular and intracellular gram-negative bacilli.
Ancillary test

*Klebsiella pneumoniae* hypermucoid phenotype was isolated in pure culture from brain and thorax swabs.
Comments

• Hypermucoid phenotype (HMP) associated with production of extracapsular polysaccharide (regulated by rmpA gene).
• *K. pneumoniae* HMP described in sea lions, dogs, non-human primates and humans (1-4).
• Severe meningoencephalitis due to this phenotype not previously described in sea lions (1).
• Single strain of *K. pneumoniae* caused at least two epidemics in New Zealand sea lions (5).

References
Thanks !!

Questions??