

## **A Novel Picornavirus Associated with Turkey Viral Hepatitis**

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Turkey Viral Hepatitis (TVH) is a highly contagious viral disease of poults characterized by increased mortality associated with hepatitis and occasionally pancreatitis. Even though the disease has been known since the 1950's, viral cause of the disease is still unknown. Recently we investigated several outbreaks of TVH in 20 to 30 day-old poults. History included increased mortality in the flock and many poults had hepatitis and a few birds had pancreatitis. RT-PCR performed on livers, pancreas and intestine revealed a picornavirus. Sequencing results suggested that this is a unique picornavirus. Data on clinical signs, pathology, electron microscopy and molecular biology will be presented and discussed.