

# MACROSCOPIC FINDINGS OF INJURIES BY FIRE IN GIANT ANTEATER

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## RESUMO

Smoke inhalation is the main cause of death in burns victims, it results in an inflammatory process in the airways due to inhalation of incomplete combustion products. The severity of the inhalation injury is related to the extent of the burn surface. These injuries can be classified as: upper airway injuries, lower airway injuries and metabolic asphyxia. Effects due to lung inflammation damage include bronchoconstriction, vasodilation and increased vascular permeability. With fire soot particles the magnitude of exposure and individual factors alter the severity of the injuries. The giant anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*), one of the representatives of the Pilosa order, is considered a vulnerable species. The purpose of this is to describe a case of smoke inhalation injury in a giant anteater. The adult animal was received by the Wild Animal Rehabilitation Center (CRAS) of Mato Grosso do Sul, coming from the burning of the Pantanal Sul, with second and third degree burns on all four legs, and in the pelvic ones it had loss of claws and exposure of the left third phalanx. The animal was cachectic and very dehydrated. Support was provided for rehydration with Ringer Lactate, antibiotic therapy using Rilexine, pain control using Dipyrone, Tramadol Hydrochloride and Maxicam 0.2%. Nutritional and water support performed on a forced basis. After two days the animal died, and a necropsy was performed. The identification of the corpse was observed to be an adult female, in regular body condition. The ocular mucous membranes were moderately hyper-colored, with multifocal areas of marked destruction and detachment of the skin, showing a reddish surface in the four limbs in the palmar and plantar region and between the phalanges, face region on the right side, medial radial ulnar region and proximal region the tail. In the right thoracic limb, the lesion extends over the dorsal face of the phalanges. In the internal examination, it was observed that the lungs present a reddish-colored pleura, with a roughly diffused appearance and showing multiple bullous nodular lesions on the pleural surface, mainly in the lobes on the left side. The cuts show areas of emphysema and congestion. Kidneys were slightly congested. The open stomach had ulcers in the pyloric region and nematode parasites fixed in the organ mucosa. The small intestine showing free cestode parasites in the lumen. Marked distension of colon and rectum with marked amount of dry content in the lumen of these segments. Conclusion: The pathophysiological mechanisms of inflammation involve chemical and cellular mediators. The physical and chemical stimuli produced by inhaling the smoke triggered an aggression process, with consequent vasodilation and plasma leakage, evolving to the formation of pulmonary edema, causing a respiratory collapse.

**PALAVRAS-CHAVE:** Biodiversity, Burned, Pathogenesis, Pilosa.

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