

SUMMARY

Caged broiler chickens were inoculated by the oral or tracheal route with *C. baileyi* oocysts, with variation in infective doses for analysis of clinical signs, effects on growth performance and parasitological parameters. One hundred twelve birds were divided in 7 groups with 4 replicates and 4 birds each replicate. The birds with 10 days old were inoculated with 10^3 , 10^5 or 10^7 oocysts. The groups receiving oocysts by the tracheal route developed respiratory signs at 3 days after inoculation (DAI) in birds inoculated with 10^7 and 6 DAI in birds inoculated with 10^3 and 10^5 oocysts. At 23 DAI the birds appeared normal, without clinical signs. The oocysts appeared in feces 3 DAI. No oocysts were found in faeces at 18 DAI. *C. baileyi* affected growth performance of inoculated chickens between 10-25 DAI, mainly in groups which received the higher doses of oocysts.

KEY WORDS: *Cryptosporidium baileyi*, broiler chickens, experimental infection.