

What is the skin condition in this buffalo?



The lesions on the withers and the sides of the thorax are caused by a micro-filarial worm, *Parafilaria bassoni*. Bleeding spots occur from a raised nodule, where the worm is situated in the superficial tissues and can be seen from November to February. These unusual lesions (bleeding points) seen in the infected animals, were caused by female parasites depositing their embryonated eggs. Secondary infection of these wounds can happen, but the parasite itself does not affect the buffalo adversely. Red-billed oxpeckers will feed on these bleeding spots, causing ulcers and eventually open wounds. They reduced the likelihood of the spreading of the parasite by ingesting blood containing embryonated eggs. Infected buffalo can be treated with Ivomec at 1 ml per 50 kg of body mass to control the parasite.