Highly pathogenic avian influenza in turkeys

Mortality. In studies where turkeys have been experimentally given highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), they die soon about 5 days after they are infected. This is consistent with what has been seen in turkey flocks infected with other types of HPAI. A typical mortality pattern in a flock of 10,000 is shown in Figure 1.

![Figure 1. Typical mortality pattern observed in infected turkey flocks.](image)

Signs. The most prominent sign of HPAI in turkeys is the mortality. Vets have reported that the first birds may be found dead with blood coming from their mouths. Infected flocks have been lethargic (slow or drowsy), not wanting to move, depressed. Some vets have reported that this looks a little like Coban knockdown. Infected flocks may have birds with neurological signs, especially twisted necks or star gazing (Fig 2). It has been reported that those birds are in the flock but that you really have to look for them.

Lesions at necropsy
Most commonly, there are no lesions in turkeys that die of HPAI. When there is something, hemorrhages in the pancreas are the most common thing reported. A picture of a pancreas from an infected bird is shown in Figure 3.

![Figure 3. A pancreas with hemorrhages from a turkey with HPAI. Some of the hemorrhages are indicated with arrows.](image)