

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	Journal of Advances in Microbiology
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JAMB_126012
Title of the Manuscript:	A Case of Newcastle Disease and Avian Colibacillosis Co-infection in 4-week-old Broiler n Flock in Maiduguri, Nigeria
Type of the Article	Case report

PART 1: Review Comments

Compulsory REVISION comments	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<p>Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. Why do you like (or dislike) this manuscript? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>The manuscript provides important insights into a co-infection case of Newcastle Disease (ND) and Avian Colibacillosis (AC), which is significant for both veterinary science and public health. However, there are a few areas that require attention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Comment 1 (Error in Vaccine Failure Discussion): The discussion on vaccine failure is superficial. Please expand on potential causes such as antigenic variation, improper vaccine handling, or issues in maintaining the cold chain. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion: Provide additional references and discuss more thoroughly how vaccine failure could occur and affect the outbreak. <input type="checkbox"/> Comment 2 (Zoonotic Risk Explanation): The zoonotic risk of ND is mentioned but not elaborated upon. Please expand on the specific risks and recommend public health measures to mitigate the spread to humans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion: Add details about zoonotic transmission modes (e.g., through contact with infected birds or their secretions) and the preventive measures. <input type="checkbox"/> Comment 3 (Abstract Clarity): In the abstract, diagnostic methods used to confirm the co-infections should be briefly mentioned. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion: Include details on the tests (e.g., PCR, Hemagglutination inhibition test) used to confirm the infections in the abstract. 	
<p>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p>	<p>The title is appropriate but could be simplified to increase clarity and impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion: A suggested revision is: "Co-infection of Newcastle Disease and Avian Colibacillosis in a 4-week-old Broiler Flock in Maiduguri, Nigeria." 	

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<p>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.</p>	<p>The abstract is generally clear but could benefit from conciseness and better emphasis on important details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Error: The morbidity and mortality rates are mentioned but could be rephrased for clarity. • Suggestion: Reduce redundancy in mentioning these rates and consider adding details about the diagnostic tests used to confirm ND and AC co-infection. 	
<p>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p>	<p>The subsections and structure of the manuscript are largely appropriate, but the discussion section would benefit from improved organization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Error: The discussion lacks clear differentiation between clinical findings, economic impact, and public health concerns. • Suggestion: Use subheadings like "Clinical Findings," "Economic Impact," and "Public Health Implications" to create a more structured flow in the discussion. 	
<p>Please write a few sentences regarding the scientific correctness of this manuscript. Why do you think that this manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>This manuscript is scientifically robust as it presents a well-documented case of co-infection with Newcastle Disease (ND) and Avian Colibacillosis (AC) in broilers, supported by laboratory-confirmed diagnostic data. The epidemiological and clinical observations are clearly presented, and the use of appropriate diagnostic methods such as Hemagglutination inhibition (HI) test and bacteriological culture adds to the technical soundness of the study. The manuscript addresses the clinical, economic, and public health implications of such co-infections, making it highly relevant to the poultry industry and veterinary science. However, a deeper discussion on the causes of vaccine failure and possible prevention strategies would strengthen the scientific rigor even further. However, there are some areas where further elaboration is needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Error: The vaccine failure discussion is not explored in sufficient detail, weakening the scientific discussion. ○ Suggestion: Expand on possible reasons for vaccine failure (e.g., improper storage, poor immune response, or genetic variation in the virus). Reference similar cases or studies that could provide insight. 	
<p>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</p> <p>=</p>	<p>The references are generally sufficient, but some are slightly outdated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Error: Several references are older than five years, which might limit the relevance of the data used. • Suggestion: Incorporate more recent studies (within the last 3-5 years), particularly related to co-infections and vaccine efficacy in poultry. 	

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<p>Minor REVISION comments</p> <p>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>he English is mostly clear, but there are a few areas where improvements could be made for better readability and fluency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Error: The use of "inappetence" could be confusing for some readers. • Suggestion: Replace "inappetence" with "loss of appetite" for clarity. Additionally, check for grammatical inconsistencies, especially with tense usage (e.g., "The birds were transferred... The mortality continues"). 	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>	<p>Abstract:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Location: After the sentence, "<i>The outbreak highlights the economic impact of these diseases on the poultry industry in Nigeria.</i>" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Comment: "Consider rephrasing this sentence for conciseness. For example: 'This outbreak underscores the significant economic impact on Nigeria's poultry industry.'" 2. Location: After the sentence, "<i>Public health concerns also arise due to the zoonotic potential of ND.</i>" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Comment: "Please elaborate on the specific zoonotic risks posed by ND and how they might affect public health (e.g., through direct contact or airborne transmission). Consider recommending specific public health measures." 3. Location: After the sentence, "<i>Further research is needed to investigate vaccine failures and develop more effective prevention strategies.</i>" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Comment: "Can you provide more details on the possible causes of vaccine failure? Is it related to cold chain issues, antigenic variation, or improper vaccine handling? This would strengthen the call for further research." <hr/> <p>Introduction:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Location: After the sentence, "<i>The disease combination is implicated in high cost of treatment, mortality and production cost in the poultry industry.</i>" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Comment: "This sentence can be rephrased for clarity and to avoid redundancy. Suggestion: 'The combination of these diseases leads to high treatment costs, increased mortality, and elevated production expenses in the poultry industry.'" 2. Location: After the phrase, "<i>Newcastle; caused by a virus of the family paramyxoviridae.</i>" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Comment: "There is a punctuation error here. Replace the semicolon with a comma: 'Newcastle, caused by a virus of the family paramyxoviridae.' Also, ensure that this sentence has a reference if it's not common knowledge." 3. Location: After the phrase, "<i>Landman et al., 2017; Yehia et al., 2023.</i>" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Comment: "Check if more recent studies are available to cite. Outdated references may weaken your argument if newer data is available." <hr/> <p>Case Presentation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Case History : you need to clarify the vaccine source , dosage , mechanism of administration etc – clarify the types of antibiotics use – clarify the previous history of the replaced pen . 2. Location: After the sentence, "<i>About three days after the birds were transferred, the flock attendants noticed that the birds had become weak. Inappetence, some had greenish/whitish diarrhea...</i>" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Comment: "This sentence is fragmented. Consider rewriting for clarity: 'Three days after transfer, flock attendants observed weakness, inappetence, and greenish/whitish diarrhea in some birds.'" 3. Location: After the sentence, "<i>The farmer administered some antibiotics combinations, but the</i> 	

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	<p><i>mortality continued.</i>"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Comment: "Change to: 'The farmer administered a combination of antibiotics, but the mortality rate continued to rise.' This improves clarity and grammatical accuracy." <p>4. Location: Next to Figure 1, Figure 2, and Figure 3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Comment: "The figure captions could benefit from more detail. Consider using arrows or markers in the images to highlight the key features being described." <hr/> <p>Laboratory Investigation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Location: After the phrase, "<i>Bacteriological tests that were conducted included Gram's staining, culture, biochemical identification and antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST).</i>"○ Comment: "Please add details of the antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST). Which antibiotics were tested, and what were the results? This is important to understand the treatment approach."2. Location: After the description of virological and bacteriological tests.○ Comment: "Consider providing more detail on the specific laboratory procedures used. This will enhance the methodological rigor of the report." <hr/> <p>Results and Discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Location: After the sentence, "<i>The morbidity rate at the farm was 120/200 (60%), the mortality rate was 90/200 (45.0%).</i>"○ Comment: "Clarify whether the high mortality was primarily due to ND, or if the E. coli co-infection played a significant role. This distinction is important for readers to understand the impact of each disease."2. Location: After the sentence, "<i>This may present serious public health concerns.</i>"○ Comment: "Provide more details on the zoonotic risks. For example, you can mention the specific symptoms in humans (e.g., conjunctivitis, respiratory issues) and the importance of handling precautions."3. Location: After the sentence, "<i>The identification of NDV antigen in a vaccinated flock present serious economic and veterinary challenge.</i>"○ Comment: "Expand the discussion on vaccine failure. Include possible causes such as poor cold chain management or antigenic drift in the virus. Citing similar case studies could also add depth."4. Location: After the sentence, "<i>Also, antimicrobial susceptibility testing is recommended to achieve effective treatment and minimize emergence of resistant strains.</i>"○ Comment: "Expand on this point. Discuss the implications of antimicrobial resistance in the poultry industry and potential alternative treatments that could be used." <p>References :</p> <p>To organize references correctly, follow these general rules based on the citation style you are using (e.g., APA, MLA, Chicago). For scientific journals, references are usually listed alphabetically by the last name of the first author and are numbered in the order they appear in the text.</p> <p>Error : Ashraf, A., & Shah, M. S. (2014). Newcastle disease: present status and future challenges for developing countries. <i>African Journal of Microbiology Research</i>, 8(5), 411-416.</p> <p>Comment : Ashraf comes first alphabetically</p> <p>I have no competing interest as a reviewer</p>	
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PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

Reviewer Details:

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