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Natural history of avian papillomaviruses

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Highlights

- Avian papillomaviruses cause cutaneous lesions or tumours in several bird species
- The lesions are best known from chaffinches
- Papillomavirus has also been detected in avian tissue with no apparent lesions
- Metagenomics permits detection of new genotypes, but provides little information about their pathology
- Avian papillomaviruses group into five genera

ABSTRACT

Papillomaviruses (Family: *Papillomaviridae*) are small non-enveloped viruses that cause skin and mucosa infections in diverse vertebrates. The vast majority have been detected in mammals. However, the number of papillomaviruses described in birds is growing, especially because of metagenomic studies. Seven complete genomes and one

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