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COMPARATIVE PATHOLOGY OF NONHUMAN PRIMATES

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When experimental data from animal experiments are being evaluated, the background diseases occurring in the experimental animal species used should be considered. Nonhuman primates include some species that are important in the field of biomedical science. However, spontaneous diseases are often found during experiments because complete microbiological and genetic controls have not been performed in nonhuman primates, unlike in rodents. On the other hand, number of nonhuman primates used in medical science is lesser than that of rodents. Therefore the incidence and tendency of diseases are not well understood in the different primate species, and this must be a cause of concern with respect to the understanding of experimental data. In this article, we describe some well-defined spontaneous diseases that occur in a nonhuman primate facility, based on our experiences. This information will contribute to better understanding of biomedical data obtained in studies, using nonhuman primates and their veterinary care.

Keywords: Biomedical Science, Comparative Pathology, Spontaneous diseases, Veterinary care