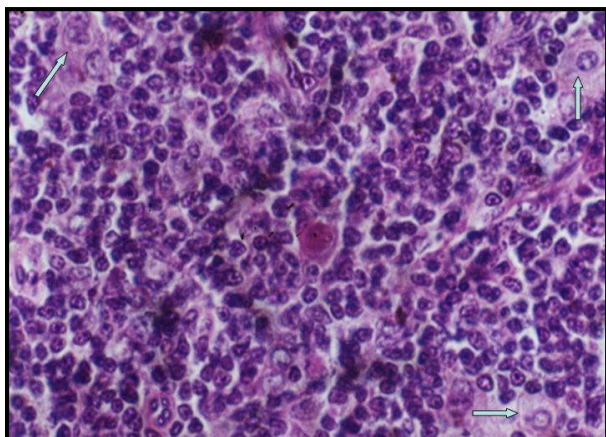
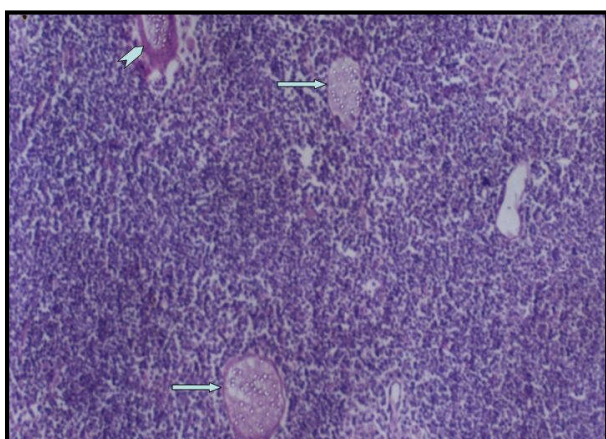


Also, high numbers of macrophages were exist throughout the gland, especially in the medulla (Figure 7).

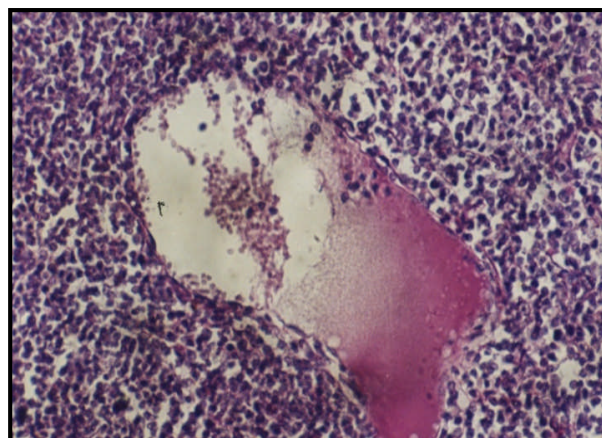


**Figure 7:** Cross section of the thymic medulla from mice treated with 2IU of OT. High numbers of macrophages (Arrows) invading the tissue and containing incorporated degenerating lymphocytes. H & E, X400.

They were large in size and containing a number of ingested thymic cells as well as cellular debris. At the tissue level, a necrotic appearance of the thymic tissue was obvious and widespread both in the cortex (Figure 5) and medulla (Figure 6). The forthcoming alterations were accompanied by cases of congestion within the capillaries in the cortex, with some of these vessels being expanded and disrupted resulting in an hemorrhagic appearance of the surrounding tissue (Figures 8 & 9).

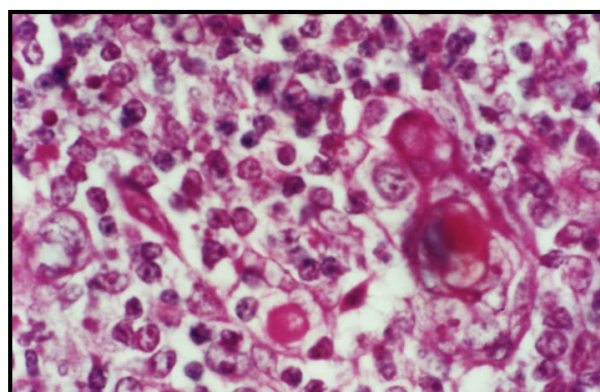


**Figure 8:** Cross section of the thymic medulla from mice treated with 2IU of OT. Notice the congestion of blood cells within the capillaries scattered in the cortex (Arrows). An obvious hemorrhage is also observed (arrow head). PAS X100.



**Figure 9:** Cross section of the thymic cortex from mice treated with 2IU of OT. A large, expanded, and disrupted blood vessel with destruction of the thymic-blood barrier. PAS, X 400.

The medullary tissue of thymuses from OT-treated mice showed the existence of large-sized Hassall's bodies containing degenerating epithelial cells. In some cases, there was more than one Hassall's Corpuscle incorporated to each other and forming very large structures (Figure10).



**Figure 10:** Cross section of the thymic medulla from mice treated with 1IU of OT. A large structure with ill- defined margins composed of two incorporated Hassall's bodies. H & E, X1000.

In addition, formation of thymic cysts was observed in some regions of the medulla, with these structures being lined with flattened epithelial cells and containing cellular debris (Figure11).