

STERNOPAGUS CONJOINED TWIN MONSTER IN CROSSBRED JERSEY COW

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ABSTRACT

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A case of dystocia in crossbred Jersey due to conjoined twin monster is reported.

Key Words : Dystocia, Twin Monster, Jersey cow

INTRODUCTION

Conjoined or fused symmetrical twins also called double monster are usually monozygotic and represent incomplete division of one embryo into two components. This usually happens during primitive streak stage of embryonic development (Noden and Lahunta, 1985). Double monsters are most common group of fetal monoesters in cattle with an incidence of 33.1 percent (Jackson, 1995) but very rare in sheep, pig, dogs, cats and horses. Dystocia is common sequelae of monstrosities in bovines (Sharma, 2006)

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATIONS

A pluriparous full term pregnant cow of Jersey crossbred in 4th parity was presented with a history of dystocia that was attended at the doorstep of a farmer. The cow had completed 3 lactations and previous calvings were reported to be normal. The animal was reported to be straining continuously since last 8 hours and stressed due to labour pains. The water bag had ruptured about two hours before, but no foetal parts were visible through vagina. Per vaginal examinations of animal carried out after proper restraining revealed fully dilated cervix and a dead foetus in anterior

longitudinal presentation appeared to be double headed in the birth canal at the pelvic brim. The double head caused obstruction due to postural problems.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

The cow was administered normal saline solution along with dexamethasone sodium before obstetrical intervention to relieve dystocia. A dead intact conjoined twin (co-twin) monster was delivered after adequate lubrication, correction and mild traction. The two heads were made to transverse the birth canal one after the other to accommodate the pelvic space. Exploration of the monster revealed a co-twin, both male with incomplete duplication of some of the systems. The defect was diagnosed as sternopagus conjoined twin monster. Routine post obstetrical medication was attempted and the dam recovered after a week. The weight of the twin was 39.7 kg and the length from base of the tail to pole of the head was 36 cm and 33.2 cm respectively. All the external organs including eyes, ears, nostril, oral cavity, tongue, anus and male external genitalia were fully developed, separate and apparently normal in the conjoined twins. Both the twins were male and their ventral sides were fused from sternum to umbilicus. Chest and abdominal cavities were continuous internally. The conjoined twins may arise either from incomplete division of a blastocyst which is about to produce twins (Willis, 1962). Conjoined twins as a result of embryonic duplication are monozygotic

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and common in cattle as compared to other species (Roberts, 1982). Arthur (1963) classified three most common monsters in bovines and attributed these to autosomal recessive gene. Dystocia due to dicephalus dipagus condition monster in cow was reported by Mahajan *et al.* (2003), whereas dystocia due to dicephalus monstrosities in a crossbred cow was reported by Chandrahasan *et al.* (2003).

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Fig. Sternopagus conjoined twin monster in Jersey cow