

PEROSOMUS HORRIDUS FOETAL MONSTER IN A NON-DESCRIPT COW

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ABSTRACT

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A rare case of dystocia due to *Perosomus horridus* foetal monster in cow and its successful management by caesarian section was reported.

Key words: Dystocia, *Perosomus horridus* foetus, cow.

INTRODUCTION

Perosomus horridus is a congenital anomaly of unknown origin reported rarely in bovine and caprine (Arthur *et al.*, 2001). It is a foetal monster with general ankylosis, muscle contractures and characterized by a short spine due to a marked double *fS* shaped lateral twisting of the vertebrae (Roberts, 1971). On perusal of available literature, only few cases of *Perosomus horridus* foetal monster resulting in dystocia have been reported in cattle. Hence the present report describes a case of *Perosomus horridus* foetal monster relieved by caesarian section in a cow.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATION

A primiparous non-descript cow in full term pregnancy was presented to the large animal obstetrics unit of Madras Veterinary College Teaching Hospital, Chennai with the history of straining since 16 h and water bag ruptured about 12-13 h before. Clinical examination revealed the cow was dull and depressed with all vital parameters within normal range. After thorough lubrication, pervaginal examination revealed a completely relaxed cervix with the presence of all four limbs and head in the birth canal. Further careful exploration revealed a dead undersized foetus. General ankylosis of all four limbs with rigid left lateral deviation of head was observed. The case was diagnosed as dystocia due foetal monstrosity.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

Under low caudal epidural anaesthesia with 4ml of 2% inj. lignocaine Hcl pervaginal delivery of the undersized foetus was attempted. Attempt was futile due to laterally deviated head and strongly ankylosed limbs. Hence, it was decided to deliver the foetus through caesarian section. Caesarian section was performed in left lower flank under local and epidural anaesthesia following standard procedure outlined by Arthur *et al.* (2011) and a dead female foetal monster weighing about 7kg was delivered (Fig.1). The cow was treated with intravenous antibiotics and fluids and intramuscular anti-inflammatory and antihistaminic drugs for seven days. The cow had an uneventful recovery.

Detailed examination of foetus revealed that both the fore and hind limbs appeared shorter with marked ankylosis of joints. The atlanto-occipital joint was also rigid and immovable. The tail was highly placed with anal opening directed upward. Radiological examination revealed the presence of double *fS* shaped curve of the vertebral column (Fig.1) suggestive of *Perosomus horridus* monster. The right side os coxa of pelvic bone was also deformed (Fig.2). All the internal organs appeared normal except for congestion of liver.

Foetal monstrosities represent less than 1% of all observed congenital malformation in bovine and caprine species (Roberts, 1971). In the present case, the foetus exhibited all the malformations of Perosomus horridus monster as described by Roberts (1971) in cattle. In addition, the foetus had a flattened and deformed pelvis. Perosomus horridus foetal monster occasionally leads to dystocia due to malalignment of extremities. Balasubramanian et al., (1995) and Napoleon et al., (2008) had reported per vaginal delivery of Perosomus horridus fetal monsters in goat and buffalo, respectively. On the contrary, in the present case per vaginal delivery was unsuccessful due to marked lateral deviation of head with rigid atlantooccipital joint resulting in increased transverse fetal diameter necessitating caesarian section.

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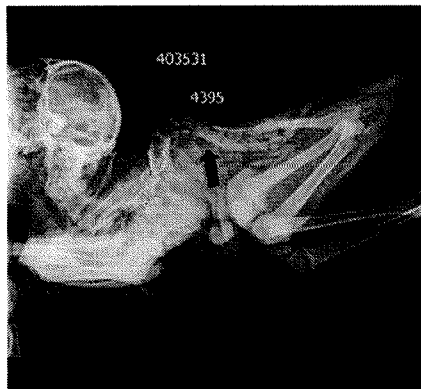


FIG.1 ARROW INDICATING DOUBLE "S" SHAPED VERTEBRAL COLUMN

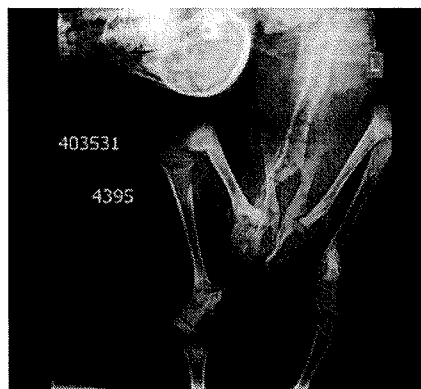


FIG.2 ARROW INDICATING DEFORMED PELVIC BONE