

PROLONGED GESTATION IN A SHEEP ASSOCIATED WITH A CYCLOPIC LAMB

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ABSTRACT

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A case of prolonged gestation associated with Cyclops in sheep was reported.

Keywords: Cyclopia, prolonged gestation, sheep

INTRODUCTION

Prolonged gestation associated with fetal deformity cases usually occurs as the result of compromise of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis of the fetus, which is no longer able to initiate parturition. The affected fetus may either die or be aborted or live and grow on indefinitely in the uterus and sometimes kill the dam because of oversize and hydro amnion (Roberts, 1971). Genetic, infectious, toxic and unknown causes have been associated with this problem. Prolonged gestation has been reported in fetal adrenal malfunction, fetal gigantism, craniofacial defects, blue tongue virus infection (Roberts, 1971),

Cyclops in Greek mythology is one eyed giant. In medical terminology cyclopia is a teratology, where in the development of face of fetus is so affected that it has only one eye towards the centre of its head (Andrabi, 2007). Although, this kind of developmental anomaly was most commonly reported in sheep, it is also reported in goat (Kantharaj, 2010), Cattle (Gupta and Anand, 2002) and buffaloes (Sutaria *et al.*, 2012).

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATION

A four year old ewe from the dry ewe flock of Sheep Breeding Research Station, Sandynallah was presented with a history of straining for the last few hours, brownish vaginal discharge and balloted abdomen. On abdominal palpation a solid mass suspected to be fully developed fetus was felt. On tracking the breeding history from the ewe was bred 247 days earlier in the main breeding season and not lambed yet. The ewe had lambed normally once before this pregnancy.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

On obstetrical examination, the cervix was slightly opened with less than a finger dilatation. On suspecting some congenital abnormality of fetus such as mummification, cranial deformity and with no further progression, it was decided to perform caesarean section. The ewe was restrained in right lateral recumbency. After shaving and disinfection of the left lower flank, operation was performed under epidural and local infiltration with 2 % lignocaine. A male monstrous lamb with severe facial deformities was delivered. The morphological examination of dead male fetus revealed that the fetus was a cyclope, having single orbit with one eye ball. Upper eyelid and eyelashes were present but were absent in lower eyelid. Absence of upper jaw was noticed with protrusion of tongue from base while lower jaw was long and curved upwards with three pairs of developed incisors. Muzzle, nostrils and typical nose

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were absent (arhinia). On morphological bases the lamb was a cyclope with arhinia (Fig 1.). The fetus exerts an overriding control on the length of gestation and that the mother can influence the time of birth only within narrow limits. Prolonged gestation in this case is associated with the abnormalities of the fetal brain and adrenal of cyclopic lamb.

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Figure 1. Cyclops lamb having single orbit with one eye ball with facial deformities