

DYSTOCIA DUE TO DICEPHALUS MONOSTOMUS MONSTER IN A JERSEY CROSS BRED HEIFER

K.RAVIKUMAR¹, K.KRISHNAKUMAR², A. KUMARASEN³ AND C.CHANDRAHASAN⁴

Department of Clinics, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Namakkal, Tamil Nadu - 637 001.

ABSTRACT

Received : 16.03.2011

Accepted : 16.11.2012

Dystocia due to dicephalus monostomus monster was relieved by cesarean section in a jersey cross bred heifer

Keywords: Dicephalus, Monostomus, Monster, Jersey, Heifer, Dystocia

INTRODUCTION

The incidence of fetal monsters though rare was reported by Vanderzon *et al.* (1998) in cows. Fetal monstrosities are common fetal cause of dystocia in animals (Sharma, 2006). Varying degree of conjunction can occur, but anterior duplication is more often seen (Arthur *et al.*, 1989). Dicephalus is a malformation of the head resulting from incomplete twinning in humans and animals (Jenkins and Hardy, 1968). The present communication records a rare case of dicephalus monostomus monster causing dystocia and its successful obstetrical management in a crossbred Jersey heifer.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATIONS

A three year old pregnant Jersey cross bred heifer was presented to the Veterinary College and Research Institute Teaching Hospital with the history of unproductive labour pain for 6 hrs after rupture of water bags. On presentation, the animal was in lateral recumbency with edematous and lacerated vulval lips.

Per vaginal examination revealed fully dilated cervix, and the fetal was in anterior longitudinal presentation, dorso-sacral position and extended forelimbs. Fetal movements and other reflexes were absent and the fetus was considered to be dead. Careful examination of the fetus revealed dicephalus monostomus condition with normal thorax.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

Attempts made to relieve the fetus per vaginally by mutation was unsuccessful. Hence it was decided to perform cesarean section. Following epidural and local infiltration anesthesia with 2% lignocaine hydrochloride, caesarean section was performed on left lower flank as per standard procedures and a dead female dicephalus monostomus fetus was delivered. Routine antibiotic and supportive therapy was given during post operative period. The cow had uneventful recovery.

The double headed monster was fully grown female fetus which weighed 33 kg. There was no evidence of duplication of neck, thorax and body except head. Both the heads were united dorso-ventrally, behind the eyes, just near the outer canthus of the two eyes (Left eye of the right head and right eye of the left head) and ventrally, the ventro-lateral aspect of the two heads were attached at the middle portion of the mandibular region of both sides forming an angle of 90° with each other and the skin were intact and continuous. Both the head regions showed exactly similar development with regard to eyes, nostrils, muzzle, ear pinna (one ear per head) and bony

1 and 3 - Assistant Professors, Dept. of Clinics, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Namakkal. E.Mail-doctorravikumar@yahoo.com

2 - Professor and Head, Dept. of Clinics, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Orathanadu, Thanjavur-614 625.

4 - The Controller of Examinations, TANUVAS Chennai-57

structures. Pectoral girdle was only one with single normally developed abdomen and pelvic part. These observations revealed that the monster was a "dicephalus monostomus fetus" as described by Roberts (1971). Chandrahasan et al. 2003 reported a Dicephalus monostomus monster in a crossbred cow with anterior longitudinal presentation, dorso-sacral position with extended forelimbs relieved by mutation operation, however in the present case a similar, Dicephalus monostomus monster could be relieved only by cesarean section due to the small pelvic size of the jersey crossbred heifer.

SUMMARY

Dystocia due to dicephalus monostomus was successfully relieved by laparo-hysterotomy in a cross bred heifer is reported.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors are thankful to the Dean, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Namakkal for the facilities provided.

REFERENCES

- Arthur, G.H., Noakes, D.E., and Pearson H. (1989). *Veterinary Reproduction and Obstetrics*. Sixth edition (Theriogenology), ELBS, Bailire Tindall, London, UK, pp.107.
- Chandrahasan, C., Krishnakumar, K., Selvaraju, M., Richard, Jagatheesan, P.N., and Ramesh Saravana Kumar, V. (2003). Dystocia due to Dicephalus monostomus monster in a crossbred cow. *Indian J. Anim. Reprod.*, **24**:175.
- Jenkins, T.W. and Hardly, P.H. (1968). Diprosopus and related cephalic malformations in a calf. *Anat. Rec.* **160**:161-169.
- Roberts, S.J. (1971). In: *Veterinary Obstetrics and Genital diseases*, 2nd ed. C.B.S. publisher and Distributors, Delhi. Pp 70-73.
- Sharma, A (2006) Caesarean Section in animals under field conditions: a retrospective study of 50 cases. *Indian Vet.J.*, **83**(5):544-45.
- Vanderzon, D.M., Partlow, G.D., Fisher, K.R. and Halina, W.G. (1998). Parapagus conjoined twin Holstein calf. *Anat Rec.*, **251**(1): 60-65.

ISSAR AWARD

ISSAR Best Field Veterinarian Award

The award is for a field veterinarian who is a life member of ISSAR, not working in a research / educational institute, for the best presentation of a paper in a technical session during the Annual Convention and Symposium of the ISSAR.

The presented work must be conducted outside a research / educational institute and should not form part of a degree / research project or of a project with substantial collaborative input from a research / educational institute.

Only one paper per candidate shall be considered.

Applicant should indicate his interest to be considered for the award at the time of submission of his abstract to the Organizing Secretary.

The award shall consist of a trophy and a certificate which will be presented during the Valedictory Function.