

A CASE OF UTERINE TORSION IN SHEEP

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ABSTRACT

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A rare case of dystocia due to uterine torsion has been reported in a sheep.

Key words: Sheep, Uterine torsion, Dystocia

Uterine torsion is rare in sheep and results in partial or complete obstruction of the caudal part of uterine body, preventing passage of the lamb. If the degree of torsion is less than 180° it may be possible to pass the hand and palpate the lamb. Complete obstruction may occur if the degree of torsion is greater than 180°. The present paper records a case of complete uterine torsion in a sheep.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATION

A Nellore brown sheep of 2 lactations was presented to the clinic with a history of completion of gestation with severe straining for 12 hrs. On clinical examination the animal was dull with no evidence of water bag rupture or escape of fetal fluids from the vagina. Pervaginal examination revealed obstruction of vagina caudal to the cervix. The folds of vaginal mucosa were converged conically as the hand is advanced. The vagina was completely obstructed and the fetus couldn't be palpated indicating uterine torsion of more than 180° and it is towards right side.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

As the vagina was completely obstructed, rolling of the ewe was attempted as in the cow, using a writing plank of 1^{1/2} x 2 feet dimensions. The animal was kept on right lateral recumbency and the forelimbs and hind limbs were held separately. Plank was placed on the left flank region applying pressure with digits to fix the fetus in position inside the abdominal cavity and the

ewe was rolled towards right side by maintaining the pressure on the plank. (Fig.) Two successful rotations relieved the torsion with appearance of water bag. The animal was given caudal epidural analgesia and fetus was delivered by applying gentle traction. The fetus was dead as the case presentation was delayed to the clinics. Two Furea boli were placed inside the uterus. Postoperatively it was administered with enrofloxacin (quinintas) @ 5mg/kg b wt, Melonex (meloxicam) @ 0.1mg/kg b wt, im for 5 days. RL 200ml IV, dextrose normal saline 250 ml IV were given for 3 days. The ewe showed uneventful recovery.

Iliaz and Talafha (1999) attempted rotation of the ewe's body noted to be unsuccessful. The condition was then corrected surgically via left flank caesarean operation and dead fetus was removed. However, Arthur *et al.* (2001) reported, successful correction of uterine torsion was achieved by the Schaffer method in 16 out of 29 cases (55.17%) and in 26 out of 32 ewes with uterovaginal torsion between 6-12 hrs after the initiation of parturition (Selskostopanska, 1998). Surgical correction of uterine torsion was successful in 138 out of 146 ewes (94.52%) and failed in 8 (5.48%). (Minkov, *et al.*, 1998).

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Fig.: Plank placed on the left flank region applying pressure with digits