

DYSTOCIA DUE TO CONJOINED SIAMESE TWIN MONSTER IN A BUFFALO: A CASE REPORT

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ABSTRACT

A rare case of dystocia due to conjoined siamese twin monster in a buffalo and its successful management is described.

Key words: Buffalo, Conjoined siamese twin monster, Dystocia

INTRODUCTION

Dystocia due to fetal monstrosities is a common sequelae in bovines. Fetal monstrosities and anomalies have been reported quite often in cow (Roberts, 1971) but the incidence is less in buffaloes. Conjoined twins arise from a single ovum and are monozygotic (Arthur *et al.*, 1956). This paper reports a rare case of conjoined twin monster in a she buffalo.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATIONS

A buffalo (Case No. 061) at full term in its sixth parity belonging to a local farmer was presented to Veterinary Clinics, GADVASU, Ludhiana. Previous calving were normal. The animal was straining for the past 12 hrs and its water bags had ruptured. Two fetal legs were seen at the vulvar lips without any progress. The case had earlier been treated by the local Vet but attempt was futile. Per-vaginum examination showed two hind limbs in the birth passage. Repulsion and deeper exploration revealed a conjoined twin monster. Per vaginum delivery was not possible and therefore it was decided to perform fetotomy.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

After inducing epidural anesthesia, about 6-7 liters of Carboxy Methyl Cellulose (CMC) gel was introduced in to the birth passage in order to lubricate it thoroughly. The presenting limbs of the fetus were secured, and complete fetotomy was performed on the fetus with the help of Thygesen's fetotome. The monster was a conjoined twin with fusion at the posterior abdomen (Fig.). It had two heads with small neck, two pairs of fore limbs, two pairs of hind limbs, two thoraxes, both abdomen attached posteriorly to the umbilical region. The gross appearance of the conjoined twin was like two separate calves in the same direction. The placenta was retained. Post-obstetrical treatment involved parenteral administration of antibiotics, antiinflammatory, analgesics, hemostatics, calcium, multivitamins, oxytocin and prostaglandin along with intra-venous fluid. The animal had uneventful recovery.

As per the classification of Roberts, (1971), conjoined twins are monozygotic in origin and are due to incomplete division of one embryo into two components usually at the primitive streak development state. These are usually non-inherited defects. Such abnormal embryonic duplications resulting in conjoined twins are not well documented in buffaloes. The present case seemed to be a non-inherited teratogenic defect of development since there was no history of monster previously. Dystocia due to conjoined twin monsters,

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though uncommon, has been reported earlier in buffalo (Urankar *et al.*, 1994; Dhama *et al.*, 2000). The present case was perhaps of its kind in which duplication occurred at both cranial and caudal ends and was diagnosed to be of tetrapus tetrabrachius cephalopagus.

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depicts siamese twin

Fig. Conjoined siamese twin in buffalo

THE INDIAN JOURNAL OF ANIMAL REPRODUCTION

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