

FETAL MUMMIFICATION DUE TO TORSION OF UMBILICAL CORD IN A COW

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ABSTRACT

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Successful delivery through caesarian section of mummified fetus due to umbilical torsion in a Haryana cow after failing veterinary medical intervention has been described.

Key words: Buffalo, Mummification, Umbilical cord torsion

INTRODUCTION

Mummification of bovine fetuses is an uncommon condition, but it is more common in cattle among the species. Most often, mummification occurs between 3 and 8 months of gestation, without concomitant luteolysis of the corpus luteum (CL) and opening of the cervix (Roberts, 1986). A case report of fetal mummification in Haryana cow and its successful delivery by caesarean section after failing delivery through medication is discussed.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATIONS

A primipara Haryana cow about 5 years old with the history of one month over gestation was presented at the Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex, LLRUVAS, Hisar. Before the case was presented in clinical complex, local Veterinarian had tried to terminate the pregnancy with repeated inj. Vetmate (Cloprostenol, 250ug/ml; Vetcare Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore, India) 2ml, i/m at 3 days apart without any success. Per-vaginum

examination revealed open cervix with only two finger dilatation without any discharge. Rectal palpation revealed a compact, firm and immobile mass without uterine fluid within the uterus. The case was diagnosed to be of mummified fetus.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

Caesarean operation was performed in left lateral recumbency under local analgesia (2% Lignocaine hydrochloride solution) with local infiltration along the site of incision following all aseptic precautions. The animal had uneventful recovery following operation. The extracted mummified fetus was dry with chocolate coloured pasty material, with normal appearances of body parts. A reddish-brown coloured dry placental membrane was adhered over the most of the fetal parts. Further exploration of the fetal membranes revealed 720° torsion of umbilical cord that could be a probable cause of fetal death.

Cases of fetal mummification have been reported in literature by Kumari *et al.* (2003) however, present communication deals with mummification due to umbilical cord torsion in Haryana cow. The treatment for mummification is induction of luteolysis by injection of PGF_{2α}, which is followed by the expulsion of the fetus as early as 12-14 hrs (Saxena *et al.*, 2001) to 8 days (Srinivas *et al.*, 2007). In spite of PGF_{2α} treatment, certain percentage of animals fail to expel the dead

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fetus, hence, a decision was made to perform caesarean section to deliver mummified fetus (Rejean *et al.*, 2009). In the present case, mummified fetus was removed by caesarean section and the animal had uneventful recovery.

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