

A RARE CASE OF DYSTOCIA IN A BITCH DUE TO FETAL CERVICO-THORACIC HEMATOMA ALONG WITH AMELIA OF HIND LIMBS

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ABSTRACT

A rare case of dystocia in a bitch due to cervico-thoracic hematoma along with absence of hind limbs in pup is reported.

Key words: Amelia, Dystocia, Hematoma, Bitch

INTRODUCTION

The incidence of canine fetal dystocia is 24.7% and out of this only 1.6% cases of fetal abnormalities are observed (Jackson, 2004). Various fetal monsters and their delivery through caesarean section have been attempted earlier (Ghuman *et al.*, 2008). The present case report describes a rare and unusual case of dystocia in bitch due to cervico-thoracic hematoma along with absence of hind limbs in pup that presented in birth passage.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATIONS

A Labrador bitch of 20 kg body weight in its first parity was presented to veterinary clinics of the teaching hospital with the history of 57th day of gestation, straining and greenish black discharge from birth passage since last 24 hrs without delivery of any pup. The bitch was anorectic since last 2 days. On clinical examination, the bitch had normal temperature but high pulse and respiratory rates. Per vaginal examination revealed oedematous birth passage having non-recognizable fetal part that was not coming in to the grip.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

Since the birth passage was edemated and there was no available traction point to hold the fetus,

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caesarean section was the only option to deliver pups. Following administration of intravenous haloperidol (Inj. Serenace, 4 ml) and local anaesthetic (2% Xylocaine, 6 ml), laparohysterotomy was performed with standard procedure. One dead abnormal pup and two dead normal pups were delivered.

On careful gross examination of abnormal pup, there was enlarged fluctuating mass on the dorsum extending from cervical region up to the last thoracic vertebra (Fig.) The dissection of enlarged mass revealed presence of subcutaneous sero-sanguinous fluid and some blood clots in it (Fig.). The condition resembled cervico-thoracic hematoma. In addition, there was absence of both hind limbs which was defined as amelia. Therefore, the delivered abnormal pup had the combination of cervico-thoracic hematoma and amelia of hind limbs.

Hematoma is an abnormal localized collection of blood in which the blood is usually clotted or partially clotted and is usually situated within an organ or a soft tissue space, such as within a muscle. A hematoma is caused by a break in the wall of a blood vessel. The break may be spontaneous, as in the case of an aneurysm, or caused by trauma. Deneuche *et al.* (2002) reported five cases of cervical expanding hematoma in pups with the history of previous trauma but those were not the cases of dystocia. Amelia is an extremely rare birth defect marked by the absence of one or more limbs and it occurs when the limb formation process is either

prevented or interrupted very early in the developing embryo: between 24 and 36 days following fertilization. The etiology of limb malformation includes hereditary factors, environmental factors, or a combination of both. This defect is also associated with chromosomal aberrations (Szczerbal *et al.*, 2006). However, the etiology of both the conditions in this case could not be ascertained.

In the present case, there was a rare combination of cervico-thoracic hematoma and amelia in pup leading to dystocia as the pup was presented in posterior presentation there was no traction point to deliver per vaginally and hence caesarean section was the only alternative to deliver fetus.

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Fig. Cervico-thoracic hematoma in a pup