DICEPHALUS TETRAPUS TETRABRACHIUS MONSTER AS A CAUSE OF DYSTOCIA IN CROSSBRED COW.

RAJESH KASRIJA[1], PRAHLAD SINGH[2] and H.K. VERMA[3]

Department of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Extension Education, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana.

ABSTRACT

A 6 year old crossbred cow with normal gestation and prolonged labour pain when examined per vaginum revealed two fetal heads and four legs in birth canal causing dystocia. Fetotomy was resorted to deliver the calf. The anatomical structure of the monster is described and discussed.

Key words: - Cow, Dystocia, Dicephalus, Tetrapus, Tetrabrachius

INTRODUCTION

The incidence of fetal monsters though rare was reported by Majeed *et. al.* (1971) and Vanderzon *et. al.* (1998) in cow; Pandit *et al.* (1994) in goat and Bugalia *et al.* (2001) in buffalo. Dystocia is common sequelae of monstrosities (Sharma, 2006). Fetotomy in large animals is a practical and successful way of relieving dystocia as it reduces the size of the fetus, avoids caesarean section, requires little assistance and prevents possible trauma or injury to the dam through the use of excessive traction (Roberts, 1971). Double monsters are commonest in ruminants and swine. Varying degree of conjunction can occur, but anterior duplication is more often seen (Arthur *et al.*, 1989). Majeed *et al.* (1971) reported Dicephalus dipus dibrachius monster. Vanderzon *et. al.* (1998) reported Dicephalus tetrabrachius (parapagus) conjoined twin Holstein heifer calf characterized by the presence of two normal heads on two necks, fused in thoracic region, with four forelimbs and two hind limbs.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATION

A 6 year old full term pregnant crossbred cow, in 2nd parity was presented at Teaching Veterinary Clinics of the University at Ludhiana with the complaint that the cow was straining since last 15 hours but without progress in parturition. The local Veterinarian applied the traction but was unable to deliver the calf. On presentation, the animal was recumbent. The temperature of the cow was normal. Per vaginal examination of the animal revealed two heads and four legs in the birth passage causing dystocia. So, it was decided to perform fetotomy.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

The hind portion of the cow was desensitized by injecting 8 ml Lignocaine hydrochloride (2%) epidurally. By first cut, the fetal head was removed. Then the rest of the fetus was brought in to the passage. The 2nd cut was given by involving the 2nd head and two legs. After 2nd cut, the rest body of fetus was delivered by mutation (traction after correction). The cow was treated with steroid (Dexamethasone), anti- histaminic (Pheniramine maleate), analgesic (Analgin), antibiotics (Streptopenicillin and Gentamicin), Liver tonics, Hemostatics and with oxytocin for 5 days. The cow showed complete recovery. The delivered fetus was found to be Dicephalus (two heads) tetrapus tetrabrachius (8 legs). The two head of the monster were joined with two necks and the twins were fused in thoracic region. There were four forelegs and four hind legs, two anus and two tails. Both of the twins were male.

(1). District Extension Specialist, (2) Associate Professor, (3) Professor cum Head, Veterinary and Animal husbandry Extension Education

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