

POST-PARTURIENT UTERINE PROLAPSE IN A BITCH - A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

A rare case of post partum complete uterine prolapse and its successful management in a bitch is reported in this communication.

Key words: Bitch, Uterine prolapse

INTRODUCTION

Prolapse of the uterus is a common complication of the third stage of labour in the cow and the ewe. It occurs less frequently in the sow and is rare in mare and bitch. In the ruminant species the prolapse is generally a complete inversion of the gravid horn, while in the sow and the bitch inversion is generally partial and comprises one horn only (Arthur, 1989). The condition usually occurs immediately or within a few hours after the delivery of the last neonate. Uterine prolapse in the bitches may be complete with both the horns protruding from the vulva or limited to the uterine body and one horn. However, in the present communication a bitch with a complete eversion of both the uterine horns rendering a Y shaped appearance to the prolapsed mass and its successful management is discussed.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATION

A multiparous pomerian bitch aged about 3 years was presented at the veterinary polyclinic, IVRI, Izatnagar (Regd. No. 49002 dated 9.10.07) with the complication of uterine prolapse soon after normal whelping of four mature healthy optimum sized pups nine hours back. On clinical examination, the animal appeared healthy and the rectal temperature, pulsation and respiration were recorded within the normal range. It was observed

that both the uterine horns were prolapsed giving a Y shaped appearance to the prolapsed mass (Fig.). The organ was slightly edematous with no ulceration and haemorrhagic point but encrusted with hairs, faeces and debris. Uterine prolapse was diagnosed on the basis of clinical signs.

TREATMENT

The treatment was initiated with the objective to return the prolapsed organ to its normal anatomic position under appropriate medical management and to prevent or to eliminate uterine infection. The vulva and the perivulvar area were thoroughly cleansed with the antiseptic solution. The protruding mass was lavaged with ice cold potassium permanganate solution and gently massaged to reduce the swelling. Obstetrical gel was applied sufficiently and both the horns were reduced by applying gentle pressure one by one followed by the body of the uterus. Following successful reposition of the prolapsed organ the bitch was administered parental antibiotic (Intamox 500mg) for 5 days, 2ml Meloxicam intramuscularly (Melonex) and oral calcium supplement with laxative diet. Bitch was followed up to 7 days post operatively, but there was no recurrence with normal temperature and the animal was not showing any discomfort.

Manual reduction is the treatment of choice for prolapsed uterus in dogs and its recurrence is rarely seen after replacement (Roberts, 1971). Gupta *et al.* (2005) also reported a successful manual reduction of a complete uterine prolapse in a bitch with out

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recurrence. However, Jain *et al.*, (2005) observed recurrence on the next day after reposition of the prolapsed uterus in a bitch. They opined that it may not be repositioned properly in the pelvic cavity or it may be due to the altered consistency of the uterine horn due to ischemia and laceration and they recommended ovariohysterectomy. However, in the present case the prolapse did not recur. Possible predisposing factors for uterine prolapse includes excessive relaxation and stretching of the pelvic musculature, uterine atony due to metritis, incomplete separation of placental membranes, severe tenesmus and failure of uterine involution and long mesometrial attachment (Slatter, 1993).

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Fig : Uterine prolapse of both the horns