

PROLONGED ESTRUS IN A BITCH – DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT

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ABSTRACT

A Labrador bitch was presented with a history of sanguinous genital discharge for 30 days. The bitch was diagnosed to be in prolonged estrus that was successfully treated with multiple injections of hCG.

Key words: Prolonged estrus, Bitch, hCG

INTRODUCTION

Presence of sanguinous genital discharge for a variable period, mostly 7 days, is a normal phenomenon in the proestrus phase of canine estrous cycle. During estrus the discharge, however, becomes clearer in majority of bitches, whereas, in some, a copious sanguinous discharge persists during true estrus as well (Noakes et al., 2001). Persistence of sanguinous discharge for 30 days or more may be due to genital tract neoplasm, ovarian or ovulatory abnormalities that require appropriate treatment (Watts and Wright, 1995). The present record intends to report the clinical approach towards diagnosis and successful management of a bitch exhibiting sanguinous discharge for an abnormally extended duration.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATIONS

An apparently active 6 years old Labrador bitch was presented in the Gynaecology Unit, Veterinary College clinics, Palampur, with the history of reddish vulvar discharge since last 30 days. As per the owner, the discharge was more copious and sanguinous during the first nine days of its appearance. During this period, the bitch was kept in a confined place.

Vaginal Exfoliative Cytology (VEC) smear collected from caudal vagina was stained with Giemsa.

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Thereafter, using a lubricated finger, per-vaginal examination was done and local source of vaginal bleeding was ruled out. The vaginal cytology revealed 80% cornified cells and 20% hexagonal cells with pyknotic nuclei along with RBCs, which is indicative of estrus (Concannon, 1983). On the basis of observations, the bitch was diagnosed to be in a state of prolonged estrus.

TREATMENT

Treatment comprised of i.m administration of 500 I.U Chorulon (hCG), repeated twice at a similar dose and route at 8 to 10 h interval (Phemister, 1980). Vaginal bleeding started receding around 12 h after first injection and no discharge was recorded two days after the last hCG injection. Presence of sanguinous vaginal discharge for an average duration of 9 days in majority of the bitches is a characteristic of proestrus, it usually turns yellowish as the bitch enters estrus. In the present case it was a rare finding that the bleeding continued into the estrus period. Exfoliative vaginal cytology indicating 80% cornified cells, lack of any resistance to vaginal examination and cessation of vaginal discharge following treatment confirmed estrus in the present bitch (Phemister, 1980).

Prolonged estrus is usually attributed to the presumed presence of multiple, mostly bilateral, estrogen – secreting follicular cysts. The treatment options comprise of unilateral ovariectomy if the cysts

are limited to one ovary, surgical removal following laprotomy or daily intramuscular injection of hCG in a dose of 500 IU or more. The multiple injections of hCG are advantageous over single injection protocol as it simulates the spontaneous endogenous LH surge which lasts much longer, approximately 18 to 22 h, than the other species (Phemister, 1980). The response of hCG is variable and depends on the stage of follicular development. Early administration of hCG leads to failure of response or luteinisation of follicles without ovulation, the best response is expected when more than 80% of the exfoliated vaginal cells are cornified (Noakes et al., 2001).

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Uttarakhand is a newly created state which has been separated from uttar pradesh leading to formation of new chapter as uttarakhand. This has been approved in the general body meeting held on 10.12.2009 at Veterinary College and Research Institute, Namakkal. Dr. Shiv Prasad, Professor, Gynaecology & Obstetrics, College of Veterinary Science, Pantnagar - 263145, Uttarakhand is the president of this chapter (Mob : 0 94113 77368, 05944-233160, 233067 (O), E-mail : shivp2003@yahoo.co.uk)

Goa chapter of ISSAR

Goa chapter ISSAR was started and approved in the General body meeting held at Bhuvaneshwar in 2007; Dr. Dr. Eaknath B. Chakurkar Sr. Scientist, ICAR Goa is the President of this chapter.