

Dytocia in Mare due to Lateral Deviation of Head in a Congenitally Deformed Foal

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ABSTRACT

A case of dystocia in a mare related with the congenitally deformed foal is presented.

Key words: Congenital deformity, Dystocia, Mare, Scoliosis

Congenital defects in newborn foals have been reported to the level of 4 % of all foals born (Rossdale, 1972). These defects are associated with the stress to the owner (financially) as well as to the mare in which it may cause dystocia.

An albino Kathiawari mare in 4th parity and approximately 300th day of gestation was brought to the Veterinary Clinics of GADVASU, with the history of restraining for last 5-6 hours and ruptured water bags. The physiological parameters i.e. temperature, respiration rate and heart rates were within normal range.

On vaginal examination the birth passage was found relaxed, but less lubricated and fetus in anterior longitudinal presentation, right dorso-iliac position with both forelimbs extended into the vagina and left lateral deviation of the head. The fetus was not responding to coronary band compression.

The mare was given Tetanus toxoid (5ml, IM), Dexamethasone (10 ml, IM), Gentamicin (50 ml, IM) and Ampicillin (5g, IM), epidural anaesthesia (2% Lignocaine HCL, 6ml) and sufficient amount of carboxymethyl cellulose was pumped into the uterus. Both the forelimbs of fetus were snared. An attempt to correct the deviation of head using eye hook attached to a snare did not succeed. The left forelimb was amputated at shoulder joint using the thygeson's fetotome thus to create more space for manipulation of head.

The eye hook was again fixed in the other eye and traction was applied that resulted in partial correction.

A snare was passed behind the pole of the fetus and the head was brought in to the birth canal. Further traction on head and one forelimb resulted in the delivery of dead fetus. The fetus was congenitally deformed male foal with 'S' shaped deformity of the neck, facial defect (twisted upper jaw) and contracted hindlimbs.

Fluid therapy that included NSS (8 litres IV), DNS (8 litres, IV), Mifex (250 ml, slow IV) alongwith Inj. Avil (10 ml, IM) and Inj. Chromostat (20 ml, IM) were administered as supportive therapy. Three hours after the delivery of fetus Inj. Pitocin (20 IU) was given slow intravenously in 1 liter NSS to expedite the fetal membrane expulsion. As the attempt failed, an hour later, the fetal membranes were manually removed. The mare was discharged with the advice to follow the supportive treatment for 5 more days. The mare was recovered uneventfully as reported by owner.

Faulty intrauterine positioning of the fetus had been linked with a congenitally deformed foal involving scoliosis, craniofacial defects and limb malformations (Vandeplasseche *et al.* 1984). In one study, 8.8% of foals had craniofacial defects (Crowe and Swerczek, 1985). The most commonly diagnosed congenital defect, contracted foals have been described in aborted fetuses and neonatal and yearling foals (Crowe and Swerczek, 1985). In the present case, the scoliosis of neck impeded the correction of the lateral deviation of head.

Moreover, the relatively longer fetal head and limbs made it difficult to correct. A combination

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of fetotomy and mutation could relieve the dystocia due to congenitally deformed fetuses.

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ISSAR NEWS

A state level seminar on "Animal Reproduction and Artificial Insemination" was held on 22nd April, 2008 at the College of Veterinary Science, Assam Agricultural University, Khanapara under the aegis of ISSAR, Assam Chapter in collaboration with the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department, Assam with the financial assistance from Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project (ACCP). The main objective of the seminar was to discuss on problems faced by the field Veterinarians in implementing animal breeding programmes. A total of 308 field Veterinary officers from state Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department, teachers from the College of Veterinary Science and Scientists from I.C.A.R., institutes participated in the programme. Dr. Anubrata Das, Director, National Research Centre on Pig, Guwahati and Dr. C. Rajkhowa, Director, National Research Centre on Mithun, Nagaland highlighted productive and reproductive potential of Pig and Mithun, respectively. Six field Veterinarians presented papers highlighting various problems faced in treating reproductive diseases and conducting artificial insemination. The speakers stressed on the need of educating the farmers on managerial aspects of Animal Reproduction and Artificial insemination. Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma, Animal Reproduction Scientist and Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha addressed the gathering as chief guest in the inaugural function. Dr. C. K. Rajkonwar, renowned Animal Reproduction Scientist and educationist was felicitated for his significant contribution in the field of Animal Reproduction. In addition five successful cattle breeders from different parts of the state were felicitated for their success in cattle breeding. Dr. R. N. Goswami, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Science released the compendium. The meeting was also addressed by Dr. A. K. Kataki, Director, A. H. and Veterinary Department, Assam and presided by Dr. P. K. Goswami. Latter in the business session a new executive committee of the ISSAR (Assam Chapter) was formed as follows:

President: Dr. C. K. Rajkonwar
 Vice President: Dr. P. K. Goswami
 Treasurer: Dr. B. C. Deka
 Secretary: Dr. K. Ahmed.

Secretary,
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