

Successful termination of mummified foetus in a primiparous Deoni heifer

N.M. MARKANDEYA^{1†}, A.V. DFSHPANDE², G.P. BHARKAD³ AND A.U. BHIKANE¹

Deptt. of Gynaecology & Obstetrics
Veterinary College, Udgir - 413 517 (MS)

Received : December 17, 2002

Accepted : May 22, 2003

ABSTRACT

A case of mummification of foetus recorded in Deoni primiparous cow has been reported with its successful termination by using valathamide bromide and prostaglandins

Key words : Deoni, pregnancy, mummification of foetus

A four years old primiparous Deoni pregnant heifer was presented to the ambulatory clinic at Wadhona (Distt. Latur) for confirmation of pregnancy with history of thick reddish vulvar discharge from three days. Since the animal was inseminated in the dispensary, the gestation period of the animal was confirmed as five months. On rectal examination the uterus was felt abnormal with thick, hard and small in size. The animal was re-examined during weekly ambulatory clinics and the reducing size of uterus with simultaneous hardening was recorded. Per vaginal examination revealed just opening of cervix indicative of initiation of expulsive mechanism of termination of pregnancy. Hence, the mummification of foetus was diagnosed in the right cornua of the animal. Since, there was history of intermittent reddish thick discharge and slight opening of cervix, injection Valathamate bromide 150 mg and inj. PGF₂ 25 mg was injected intramuscularly. The foetus was expelled within 30 hrs of treatment by the cow without necessity of any assistance. A thick chocolate paste adhered hard mass of 15 cms in length and 6 cms in diameter was expelled out. The mass was rigid and compact and the portion of neck and all four limbs were bend to form a contracted elongated mass.

Per vaginal examination carried out for checking the dilatation resulted into endometritis of low-grade type and hence antibiotics and uterine tonics were continued for a week after expulsion of foetus. Uneventful repair of the uterus along with re-establishment of cyclicity turned to exhibition of normal

ovulatory fertile oestrus on 27th day of termination of abnormal pregnancy.

The present case of mummification in Deoni cow is a rare accident during pregnancy. As per the horizons of foetal development described by Hafez (1987) evidence of tooth eruption with absence of hairs around eyes and the physical observations of the mummified foetus, it was concluded that the death of the foetus occurred at the stage of 110th day of pregnancy and subsequently the foetus was mummified. The pasting of chocolate red coloured jelly on foetal mass confirmed haematinic type of mummification. Mummification is characterised by death of foetus followed by resorption of foetal fluids, persistence of corpora luteum, involution of uterus and formation of contorted hard mass of the foetus (Arthur, 1989). Roberts (1971) reported that mummification of bovine foetus usually affect single foetus and it mostly occurs between 4th to 6th month of gestation. Balasubramaniam *et al.* (1990) and Awasthi and Tiwari (2002) have reported successful expulsion of mummified foetus with treatment of single injection of prostaglandin. Babu Rao *et al.* (1995) have reported a case of mummified female foetus with normal male calf in a twin pregnancy in Ongole cow where the delivery was effected by mutational operations. Phogat and Gupta (1996) have recorded mummification with uterine rupture in a crossbred cow. Gorani *et al.* (1996) reported mummification of male bovine cotwin foetus in a Holstein-Friesian cow.

Mummification occurs when a foetus diets without concomitant luteolysis and adequate cervical dilatation. Early diagnosis of the condition with combined treatment for full dilatation of cervix and complete luteolysis to expedite

¹Assoc. Professor.

²Livestock Development Officer, Vety. Dispensary, Wadhona(Distt. Latur)

³Asstt. Professor

[†]Corresponding author

termination of pregnancy by use of valthamate bromide and prostaglandin was found successful in the present case.

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BOOK REVIEW

NOTES ON APPLIED ANIMAL REPRODUCTION

PART II : BOVINE OBSTETRICS (CATTLE AND BUFFALOES)

- Compiled by : Dr. S.B. Kodagali
Professor & Head (Retd.),
Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Veterinary College, Gujarat Agricultural University, Anand
- Published by : ISSAR Gujarat Chapter
Publication Year - 2003
- Price : Rs.150/-

The compilation is comprised of 20 different chapters with illustration dealing with Veterinary Obstetrics of Applied Animal Reproduction. Elaboration made on the basis of reproductive anatomy, physiology of gestation along with the process of parturition until puerperium also highlighted handling and managemental aspects involved while dealing with complications during gestation, parturition and postparturient period. A detail description involving the occurrence of emerging conditions like uterine inertia, prolapse, torsion, retention of placenta and the diseases encountered during post partum period has also enriched the publication for all the clinicians who have keen interest on obstetrical cases and operations. A notable highlights on obstetrical exercises and model questions will be very helpful for both teachers and students to address and answers respectively.

The author is congratulated for the publication.

— EDITOR