

Prepartum Eclampsia in a Tibetan Crossbred Bitch - A case Report

D. JANA*, M. JANA and D. CHAKRABORTY

Veterinary Dispensary, Block Animal Health Centre, Gorubathan
Block, P.O. Fagu, Dist - Darjeeling. Pin - 735231.

A primiparous Tibetan crossbred bitch (Tibetan spaniel X Lhasa - Apso) named Julli aged about four years was brought to the Block Veterinary Dispensary with a history of 65 days pregnancy and associated complaints of fever, anorexia, restlessness and convulsions. The owner also reported that there were intermittent discharge of clear fluid per-vagina four days earlier. The bitch was in eclamptic convulsion and in recumbant state. Twitching of muscles of face, tongue and limbs and stertorous breathing with frothy secretions filling the mouth were noticed. This followed muscular rigidity and occasional tremors. Pupils were dilated. Typical panting with exaggerated respiration was predominant. Face seemed to be distorted after few seconds of convulsions. Legs were inverted. Hyperthermia with rectal temperature 104.5°F was recorded. The tongue held protruded on one side and licking movement was absent. Clinical examination revealed the enlarged abdomen and engorged mammary gland. Milk appeared in all the teats. Foetal heart sound was not audible. Per abdominal examination revealed no foetal movement. Per vaginal examination revealed closed cervix with soft texture without any straining.

The emergency treatment adopted, included intravenous administration of Deriphylline, dose - 1ml containing Etofyline 169.4 mg. and Thiophylline 50.6 mg./ml. followed by intravenous infusion of Calvet (Radix Pharma) containing 25% calcium Borogluconate W/v. Infusion was made very slowly to prevent myocardial

depression or cardiac arrest. Dexamethasone, (Pharma implex) dose 2ml was administered intramuscularly soon after the completion of infusion of Calvet solution. Within twenty minutes of the administration of calcium, dexamethasone and deriphylline, muscular tremors and rigidity disappeared. The bitch started licking of the froth. The eyeball movement and pupillary reflex were restored. Exaggerated breathing calmed down. Panting disappeared and normal respiration started. In all respect the bitch was found normal. Half an hour after the infusion of calcium the bitch was tried to sit and walk inspite of the ataxic gait. Keeping in view with the promising response of calcium Borogluconate infusion, another shot of intravenous calcium Borogluconate dose 5ml was given which lead to complete recovery. Per abdominal examination revealed the presence of pups without any movement. An intramuscular injection of 10 units of oxytocin (Pitocin / Parke Devis) was given. Supportive treatment included intramuscular administration of chlorpheniramine malleate 10 mg./ml (chloril vet/TTK) one ml and Ampicilline (250 mg), Cloxacilline (250 mg.) combination (Binocin / concept) 500 mg. The owner was advised to keep on watching for whelping at night. Next day morning the owner reported whelping of four dead pups by 5.30 p.m. in the evening of the

Communicating address:-

Block Livestock Development Officer, Gorubathan,
B.A.H.C. Gorubathan, P.O. Fagu, Dist - Darjeeling,
Pin - 735231.

same day. Mother Julli was active. Pulse, respiration and rectal temperature were in normal range. Per abdominal examination revealed no more presence of pups. The bitch was discharge and the owner was adviced to continue antibiotic therapy (Binocin - 500 mg.) for atleast 5 days and to give extra calcium and phosphorus in her diet.

The failure of whelping to progress in this very case, even after the average gestation period (63 days) could be due to low level of total or ionized serum calcium which leads to ineffective uterine contractions which is in agreement to Johnston (1986). Parturition eclampsia generally related to malnutrition, hypoproteinemia. Actual etiology is obscure, Since Julli was maintained on Vegetarian diet it could be suffering from hypocalcemia

and hypoproteinemia. Respiratory analeptic (Deriphylline) was administered to overcome the laboured breathing. Chlorpheniramine malleate was administered to correct the eclamptic toxemia. Several workers in the past have recommended the use of corticosteroids in the treatment and prevention of relapse. But this is without any basis as glucocorticoids decrease intestinal absorption and extrarenal excretion of calcium (Kaufmal - 1986). Oral administration of calcium with vitamin - D supplements may be beneficial after the intial intravenous infusion. In this particular case dexamethasone and oxytocin were administered to induce whelping in conjunction with calcium therapy.

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