

SURGICAL MANAGEMENT OF THE SUPERNUMERARY AND FUSED TEAT IN A COW HEIFER

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Supernumerary teat (SNT) or hyperthelia is a congenital condition of the dairy cattles. These interfere in milking and predisposed for mastitis by entry of pathogens. The main teat, being bigger and conspicuous is quite distinguishable from the supernumerary teat. Physiologically, the supernumerary teat usually has no duct that connects to the primary mammary gland. In that case, it is vestigial and non-functional. In some other cases, it may be connected to small glands or even the main glands, in which case, it yields but small amount of milk compared to the primary or main teat when suckled (Thomas *et al.*, 2008). In fused teats, skin of two teats is fused together at base without any involvement of the teat canal or muscle. Fused teats are infrequently seen in the buffaloes and rarely in the cows. SNT may be useful for teat grafting to restore teat anatomy during an acute damage to the primary teat tip (Saifzadehet *al.*, 2005).

CLINICAL SIGNS:

A cow heifer 3.5 year was admitted to TVCC, Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Hisar, with the history of one supernumerary teat on right hind quarter and one fused teat on left hind quarter. Animal was normal, active and with normal feeding and watering.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

The animal was sedated with 0.5 ml of xylazine and restrained in left lateral recumbancy. The site of operation was prepared and scrubbed with chlorhexidine solution. The anaesthesia of the operative area was done by local infiltration with 2 ml of 2% lignocaine hydrochloride solution at the base of supernumerary teat and fused teat. Then the supernumerary teat was removed at its base with scalpel making two elliptical incisions and the tissue inside it removed by sharp scalpel blade. The fused teat was separated from normal teat by cutting skin at the base of both teat. Then the cut edges were closed by two interrupted sutures with silk no. 1. Similar surgical procedure was used by Brka *et al.*(2000) to remove supernumerary teat (SNT) and fused teat in cattle. Then the antiseptic dressing was done with povidone iodine and wisprec spray for one week. The antibiotic Bayrocin 15 ml (Enrofloxacin 10% solution @2.5 -5 mg per kg body weight) and Melonex 15 ml (Meloxicam 5mg/ml solution



Fig.1 Showing supernumerary teat and fused teat

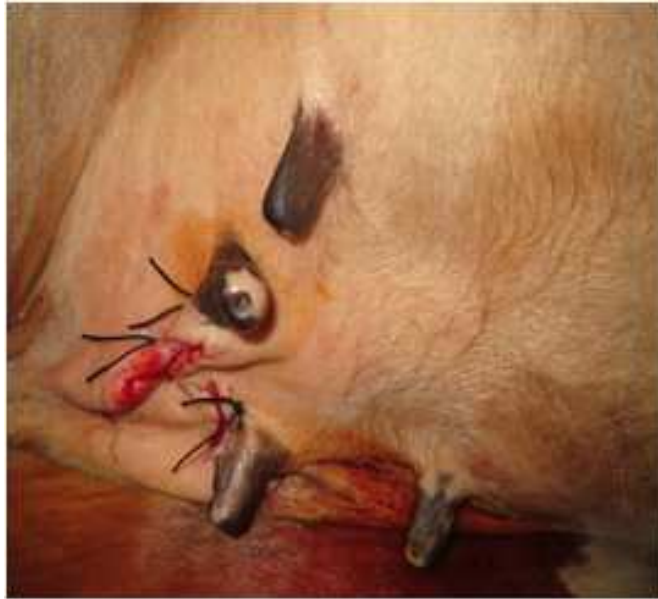


Fig.2 Supernumerary teat and fused teat removed after surgery

@)0.2-0.3 mg/kg body weight) was given for 3 days to prevent concurrent infection. The sutures were removed after 10 days and animal recovered unevenfully.

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