

**SURGICAL MANAGEMENT OF FISH HOOK IN INDIAN  
FLAP-SHELLED TURTLE (*Lissemys Punctata*)**

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Indian flapshell turtle (*Lissemys punctata*) is a fresh water species of turtle found all over Asia. Fishing activity has played a very significant role in endangering the existence of fresh water turtles in the world. This is especially true in accidental capture of turtles which get entangled with fish hook and without quick treatment it can result into death of turtle (Moraes-Neto *et al.*, 2003).

**CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATION**

An Indian flap-shelled Turtle was presented to the Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex, Akola, with a history of nylon thread stuck in its mouth. On clinical examination it was revealed that a hard body structure was located in the course of esophagus with hanging nylon thread through the mouth. The turtle was showing normal reflexes. No external wound observed on the neck of the turtle. Turtle was extending its neck and limb normally with no bleeding from the mouth or neck.

**TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION**

The turtle was sedated under ketamine anaesthesia @ 40 mg/kg body weight I/M (Mcarthur *et al.*, 2004). Incision of 3-5 cm was made on left lateral side of neck in craniocaudal direction through the skin and subcutaneous tissue (Hyland, 2002). As the oesophagus and surrounding muscle bellies were very similar in appearance, a curved artery forcep was inserted through the incision site to assist in locating and to hold the foreign body. A metallic fishing hook was held firmly with the artery forcep and retrieved it gently from lateral side of neck.

The muscularis and sub-cutis layer was sutured by catgut no. 4-0. Surgical skin incision was sutured with fine nylon. The turtle showed normal movement after recovery from sedation. Post-operatively daily dressing with application of pendistrin-SH ointment locally to the surgical wound was advised to the owner and the turtle made an uneventful recovery.

**REFERENCES :**

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