CASE REPORT

Fetotomy of Schistosoma reflexus and Brachygnathist Buffalo calf: A Case report

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ABSTRACT

Schistosoma reflexus is congenital developmental anomaly of embryonic stage of fetus which is characterized by incomplete fusion of abdominal wall leading to exposed viscera and marked ventral curvature of spine. Though normal per vaginal delivery is possible in these cases but due to ankylosis of joints the fetal diameter increases and other ways are to be sorted out. Present case reports of successful fetotomy procedure of Schistosoma reflexus in fetus. The calf born was also having parrot mouth.

Keywords: Schistosomareflexus, Brachygnathism, Fetotomy.

INTRODUCTION

Schistosomareflexusis the congenital defect arising in trunk of the fetus leading to dystokia. It is most commonly seen in cattle with highest prevalence ranging between 0.01-1.3% and less in Ewe and Doe [1,2,3].Rao et al [4] and Jana and Ghosh [5] reported the occurrence of Schistosoma reflexus in bovines in India. This monstrosity is characterized by exposed visceral organs mainly abdominal and sometimes thoracic also i.e Schistosoma and marked ventral curvature of vertebral column due to inversion of spinal cord i.e reflexus [1]. The defect arise due to incomplete fusion of ventral wall of abdomen leading to evisceration of organs making an inside-out calf, abnormally formed skeleton and inversion of spinal cord. There are various reports of Schistosoma reflexus occurring in concordance with twin fetus with viable normal calf [3], twin fetus with freemartin [6], but all are associated with dystocia.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATIONS

A seven year old Murrah buffalo was presented in GADVASU clinic with the history of over gestation and straining since last night but no progress has occurred. Animal was alert, feed, urination and defecation was normal. Physical parameter show slight variation from the normal range being on the higher side. Per vaginal examination revealed the presence of all the limbs in birth canal. After going deep into the vaginum, fetal viscera and constriction of the cervix can easily be palpated. Traction was futile to be applied because all the limbs were presented in birth canal and cervix was closing. So the decision of fetotomy was taken.

Treatment

Half loaded Thygesen'sfetotome was taken inside the vagina. Wire was put around the last thoracic rib where the ventral curvature was maximum using wire introducer. Fetotomy was done to bisect the fetus into two equal halves, for the quarter and the hind quarter. After fetotomy we were able to repose the fetal quarters and take them out separately. The viscera were hanging outside with both the quarters. Buffaloes were put on heavy antibiotics, fluid and intra uterine medication as Inj. Intacef Tazo 2 gm I/M and InjBelamyol 10 ml I/M once daily for five days, Inj Dexamethasone 10 ml I/M, Inj. Melonex 10 ml I/M, Inj. RL 5 litre I/V, Inj. Metrogyl 2 litre I/V and Inj NS 3 Litre I/V once during the gynecological intervention, Bolus Furea Intrauterine four boli after the dystocia and Syrup Enerdyna 50 ml P.O for 10 days.

The fetus was examined carefully and it shows marked ventral curvature of spine indicating a clear case of Schistosoma reflexus. Careful examination revealed the concurrent occurrence of Schistosoma reflexus.
with brachygnathism. Brachygnathism is a condition where the lower jaw is bit smaller then upper jaw leading to a shape like parrot mouth.

DISCUSSION
Schistosoma reflexus is a congenital defect developed in embryonic stage and studies proposed that it due to incomplete penetration of inherited autosomal recessive gene [7]. This monstrosity is characterized by herniation of abdominal viscera along with deep ventral curvature of spinal cord and other skeletal defects [8]. Commonly occurring in cattle and buffaloes [9] this anomaly can be corrected either by obstetrical procedures like mutation, fetotomy or caesarean section. Previous reports suggests that per vaginal delivery through obstetrical mutation as well as through caesarean section [10] is possible in cases of Schistosoma reflexus. In a report by Correale and Consalvo[11] calving occur with the abnormality in the fusion of ribs on the dorsal side thus resembling a reverse thorax, this condition was also regarded as Schistosoma reflexus. Schistosoma reflexus whenever presented with ankylosis of joints than it creates excessive fetal diameter and prevent normal delivery [12] which occur in this case hence fetotomy is the best option. Such occurrences are costly to the cattle industry and farmer because of dead offspring, loss of milk production and cost of fetal extraction [13].

REFERENCES