www.ThePharmaJournal.com

The Pharma Innovation



ISSN (E): 2277-7695 ISSN (P): 2349-8242 NAAS Rating: 5.23

TPI 2022; SP-11(7): 3374-3375

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www.thepharmajournal.com Received: 12-04-2022 Accepted: 15-05-2022

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Clinical management of uterine torsion in a doe: A case report

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Abstract

A non descript full term doe in its 4th parity with history of intermittent straining and unable to kid was presented for treatment. Upon gyneco-clinical examination right side post cervical uterine torsion was diagnosed and relived by modified Schaffer's method. Following correction, one live male kid was delivered per vaginum and the doe had uneventful recovery.

Keywords: Dystocia, uterine torsion, doe, modified schaffer's method

Introduction

Abnormal or difficulty in giving birth is referred as dystocia (Youngquist and Threlfall, 2007) [11], Blood *et al.* (2011) [3] also defined dystocia as difficulty in parturition to the point of needing human intervention. Uterine torsion is a maternal dystocia characterized by rotation of gravid uterus on its longitudinal axis, similar to an intestinal volvulus (Roberts, 1982) [6]. Rotation of uterus on its longitudinal axis is most commonly found in cattle and buffalo, once in a while in doe and ewe and seldom in mare, bitch and sow (Morrow, 1986) [5, 12]. It is a complication of pregnancy resulting due to immediate predisposing factors like falling, rolling or lack of exercise. Most torsion occurs in second stage of labor or latter part of first stage (Roberts, 1982, Morrow 1986) [6, 5, 12]. In general management procedures employed to relieve uterine torsion include simple rolling and caesarean section. Modified Schaffer's method of treating uterine torsion though attempted in cows, its application in does is rarely reported. This paper describes successful correction of uterine torsion in a doe by Modified Schaffer's method.

Case history and observation

A local non-descript 3 years old doe at full term was presented to the hospital with the history of intermittent straining to kid since last twelve hours and failure to deliver. All the sign of kidding were evident. The animal was showing exhaustive expulsive efforts, moderately anorectic but thirsty, having colic, kicking at its abdomen and there was no sign of appearance of water bag when presented for treatment. The clinical examination revealed elevated rectal temperature, respiration rate, heart rate with shrunken eye balls. Digital examination per vaginum revealed twisting of vagina and vaginal folds (>90°) were directed towards right side which was further confirmed by vaginal speculum and it was diagnosed as right sided post cervical uterine torsion.

Therapeutic and obstetrical management

Doe was casted on right side and both fore and hind limbs were held separately. Detorsion was done by Modified Schaffer's method using a small wooden plank measuring about 1 m length and 15 cm wide, placed on upper abdomen with the other end still on ground (Plate-1). A constant pressure was applied on the centre of plank. The doe was slowly rolled to the opposite side of torsion (Plate-2), with single rotation, partial detorsion was achieved and procedure was repeated once again. Following second rotation, complete detorsion was accomplished, as evidence by palpation of fully relaxed cervix and fetal parts. Fetus was in anterior longitudinal presentation, dorso-sacral position with extended fore limbs. Traction was applied to supplemental maternal efforts and a live male kid was delivered weighted 3.5 kg. Supportive treatment with fluid, 10 units of oxytocin and enrofloxacin @ 5mg/kg b.wt were administered and the treatment was advised further for 5 days.

Discussion

Exact etiology of uterine torsion is still obscured. Any deviation which permits increased mobility of uterus may predispose to uterine torsion (Sloos and Duffy, 1980). Other predisposing factors for uterine torsion in does could be falling, rolling or inadequate exercise (Sood et al., 2002) [10]. This may be primarily due to certain anatomical characteristics in the suspension of bovine uterus which permits abnormal movements. The low incidence of this malady in caprine may be either due to sub lumber attachment of mesometrium rather than subillial as in cows (Arthur et al., 1989) [1] or due to higher frequency of twin pregnancy which might be attributed to greater curvature of the gravid uterus (Roberts, 1982 and Arthur et al., 1989) [6, 1]. In the present case imbalance of uterus from single fetus might have resulted in imbalance of uterus predisposing to torsion. The treatment regimen for uterine torsion in does include rolling of dam while stabilizing of vagina, rolling of dam while giving pressure on flank or caesarean section (Dhaliwal et al., 1986, Bansod and Srivastav, 1991) [4]. Modified Schaffer's methods of rolling was attempted to correct torsion. Successful detorsion and vaginal delivery of a live fetus following detorsion is in agreement with reports by Sathiamoorthy and Kathirchelvan (2005) [7]. On contrary, Shukla et al., (2007) [8] resorted to caesarean section as a treatment for uterine torsion. The favorable outcome of dam and fetus in this case authenticate application of Modified Schaffer's method as a correction method for torsion of uterus in caprine.

Summary

In the present communication, a case of dystocia due to uterine torsion in a pluriparous non descriptive doe and its successful obstetrical management is reported.

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