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Type III recurrent vaginal fold prolapse (VFP) in a Labrador bitch and its management

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Abstract

A three-and-a-half year old intact Labrador retriever bitch weighing 32.5kg was presented with the history of recurrent protrusion of mass through vulva during the oestrus cycle and gradually regresses after that cycle. The bitch was not matted and the cycle was regular but presently the protruded mass was not regressed fully after the cycle. Physical examination of the vulval protrusion confirmed type III Vaginal Fold Prolapse (VFP). Manually the prolapsed mass was not reducible and resection of the vaginal fold prolapse was performed, two months later ovariohysterectomy was performed. The present paper reports the successful management of recurrent vaginal fold prolapse in a bitch.

Keywords: Vaginal prolapse, Ovariohysterectomy, bitch etc.

Introduction

Vaginal prolapse is a common clinical of genital tract in several species animals; but in bitches, the true vaginal prolapse is uncommon and a very rare condition (Namara, 1997) [2]. Vaginal fold prolapse occur in the young bitch during the result of an exaggerated response of the vaginal mucosa to oestrogen during pro-oestrus or early oestrus which is characterized by protrusion of pear-shaped or doughnut shaped oedematous vaginal tissue through the valve (Sontas *et al.*, 2010) [6]. The incidence is higher in brachycephalic breeds, such as the Boxer, Bull Mastiff and Mastino Napolitano, but the condition is also observed in Dalmatians and Dobermanns (Munnich, *et al.*, 1999) [1].

Case History and Observations

A three-and-a-half year old intact Labrador retriever bitch weighing 32.5 kg was presented with the history of recurrent protrusion of mass through vulva during the oestrus cycle and gradually regresses after that cycle. The bitch was not bred and the cycle was regular but presently the protruded mass was not regressed fully after the cycle. The pet was reared indoor. The owner also reported that the protrusion increases in size when the age advances, frequent licking, straining, urination and self-mutilation were also reported. On clinical examination the bitch was apparently healthy and all the vital parameters were within the normal range. Physical examination of the vulval protrusion confirmed type III Vaginal Fold Prolapse (VFP). The prolapsed mass was highly inflamed, oedematous, reddened mucous membrane and necrotized portion was noticed at the ventral region. The prolapsed mass was not reducible by manually and taking the consent of the owner initially resection of the vaginal fold prolapse was performed, two months later ovariohysterectomy performed.

Treatment and Discussion

The bitch was premedicated with atropine sulphate @ 0.04 mg/kg followed by xylazine hydrochloride @ 1 mg/kg body weight intramuscularly, respectively. General anaesthesia was induced using ketamine hydrochloride @ 5 mg/kg b.wt and diazepam @ 0.2 mg/kg b.wt intravenously, respectively. The anaesthesia was maintained with 2.5% of isoflurane in 100% oxygen. Cefotaxime and tramadol were administered intravenously @20 mg/kg and 4 mg/kg body weight respectively. The mass was extended immediately cranial to the urethral orifice and expanding caudally over the urethral orifice. The prolapsed mass was flushed with Normal saline and Metronidazole solution to remove the dirt's and freshening the tissue. Urethra was located and No.8 size catheter was fixed to prevent damage to the urethra.

The prolapsed fold was ligated using No. 0 Polyglycolic acid and resected. Bleeding was also controlled by thermocautery. Two months later ovariohysterectomy was performed through caudal mid-ventral coeliotomy. The bitch recovered unevenly.

A vaginal fold prolapse is a condition which may occur in the young bitch during the first or second follicular phase under estrogen influence and may reoccur at each subsequent estrus, if the bitch is not properly treated (Schaefer-Ockens and Ovaries, 1996) [5]. In exceptional cases, a vaginal fold prolapse may occur at the end of pregnancy. If a true prolapse occurs in the bitch other organs such as the bladder, but also the uterine body and/or distal part of the colon may also be present in the prolapse but in the present cases all were false prolapse. The prolapse was Type III - doughnut -shaped eversion of the entire vaginal wall, including the urethral orifice. The urethral orifice can be seen ventrally on the prolapsed tissue. Severe prolapse can affect the urethra and prevent normal urination (Purswell, 2000) [4]. Treatment depends on the extent of the fold prolapse, whether one is dealing with a breeding or non-breeding bitch and whether or not the prolapse is present during estrus or at the end of pregnancy. If in exceptional cases a fold prolapse develops just prior to whelping, there is in general no need for treatment and parturition can take place without problems. In pro-estrus or estrus bitches, if a fold prolapse is barely outside the vulva or protrudes intermittently, the fold should be resected and the edema will generally recede during the luteal phase and the bitch may be spayed, preferably during anestrus. Spaying during estrus enhances the risk for hemorrhages during surgery (Sontas *et al.*, 2010) [6], in the present cases also we followed the same. In moderate to severe cases, and prior to, or in absence of surgical management, the mass, which protrudes from the vulva, must be kept clean and moist and self-mutilation must be prevented. Lubricating jelly, antibiotic and glucocorticoid ointment, artificial tears, protective pants and an Elizabethan collar have been advised for these cases (Namara, 1997) [2]. Medical treatment is not advised: a fold prolapse reoccurs frequently, if not treated surgically. In bitches with a vaginal fold prolapse, which extends outside the vulvar lips, amputation is the treatment of choice (Post *et al.*, 1996) [3]. In the present case the owner was not interested for breeding the bitch, so ovariohysterectomy was performed.



Fig 1: Type III recurrent vaginal fold prolapse (VFP) in a bitch

Summary

Type III recurrent vaginal fold prolapse (VFP) is reported in a Labrador bitch and presented for record

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