SCHAFFER'S METHOD FOR THE TREATMENT OF AN EWE WITH UTERINE TORSION

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ABSTRACT

A five-year old non-descriptive full term pregnant ewe had abdominal straining and mucus discharge from the vagina since 12 h. Per vaginal examination diagnosed the ewe with right side post cervical uterine torsion that was relieved by Schaffer's method and a live female fetus was delivered by simple traction.

Keywords*:* Dystocia, Detorsion, Ewe, Schaffer's method, Uterine torsion

INTRODUCTION

Uterine torsion occurs most commonly in cattle and buffalo, occasionally in doe and ewe and rarely in mare, bitch and sow (Morrow, 1986). The Schaffer's method of treating uterine torsion is routinely attempted in cattle; however, its application is rarely reported in sheep. This paper describes the successful correction of uterine torsion in ewe by the Schaffer's method.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATIONS

A non-descriptive five-year-old full term pregnant ewe was presented with the history of intermittent straining since 12 h, mucus discharge from vagina and failure to deliver fetus. The ewe exhibited typical symptoms of uterine torsion viz, abdominal pain, anorexia, lack of rumination, rapid pulse rate and restlessness. Per vaginal examination diagnosed the case as right side post cervical uterine torsion as there was complete obstruction of vagina due to twisting of vaginal fold towards right side and fetal parts were absent.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

The caudal epidural anesthesia (2 ml, 2% lignocaine hydrochloride) was administered and the animal was casted on right side. Both fore and hind limbs were held separately and detorsion was achieved by Schaffer's method using a small wooden plank (1 m long and 15 cm wide). The plank was placed on upper abdomen with the other end still on ground and the constant pressure was applied on the centre of plank. The sheep was slowly rotated on the same side of torsion and complete detorsion was achieved with a single rotation as indicated by the vaginal protrusion of intact water bag along with the fetus. The live fetus in anterior longitudinal presentation, dorso-sacral position with extended fore limbs was delivered by simple traction. The supportive therapy was administered for 3 days and the animal recovered uneventfully. The reported treatment regimens for uterine torsion in sheep and goat include rolling of dam after stabilizing vagina, rolling of dam while giving pressure on flank and caesarean section (Dhaliwal *et al.,* 1986; Bansod and Srivastava, 1991 and Naidu, 2012). Moreover, successful detorsion by Schaffer's method followed by vaginal delivery of a live and mummified fetus was also reported (Sathiamoorthy *et al.*, 2005).

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