DYSTOCIA DUE TO PEROSOMUS ELUMBIS WITH SCHISTOSOMUS REFLEXUS IN A BUFFALO

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ABSTRACT

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A rare case of combination of two types of monstrosities in a buffalo calf delivered by caesarean operation has been recorded.

Keywords: Buffalo calf, Dystocia, Perosomus elumbis, Schistosomus reflexus.

INTRODUCTION

Perosomus elumbis is an infrequent congenital fetal anomaly and is characterized by partial or complete agenesis of lumbo-sacral and coccygeal regions of spinal cord along with ankylosis of posterior limbs (Buck *et al.*, 2009). Schistosomus reflexus is commonly observed in cattle. It is a defect of the trunk with malformation of the thoracic and abdominal cavities and resulting in exposure of viscera (Roberts, 1971). The present report records a rare case of perosomus elumbis associated with schistosomus reflexus in a buffalo.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATIONS

A Murrah buffalo at complete term of pregnancy in third parity was brought in recumbent position to Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex, LLRUVAS, Hisar.

Owner reported that buffalo was in labour pain since past 6 hrs and first water bag ruptured. Buffalo was in anaemic and anorectic condition and remained recumbent during clinical examination and obstetrical manipulation. Per-vaginum examination evidenced fetus in posterior presentation, dorso-ilial position and complete retention of hind limbs beneath the body of the fetus. Absence of fetal reflexes confirmed dead fetus.

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TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

In this case fetotomy was not feasible keeping in view edema of birth passage and exhausted dam. Caesarean was decided to save the dam.

As per the standard procedure, caesarean operation was performed and a dead female monster of 9.5 Kg weight was delivered. Monster fetus had complete agenesis of lumbo-sacral region along with normal development of coccygeal region of spinal chord (Fig. 1). The coccygeal vertebrae were linked by soft tissues caudal to thoracic vertebrae. Both hind and fore limbs were completely flexed and ankylosed (Fig. 2). The pelvic bones were present but hypoplastic. Atresia ani and recti were present. Viscera of abdominal organs were exposed at lumbar region (Fig. 1). Internal organs were normal as a normal fetus. The monster confirmed the developmental anomaly of combination of schistosomus reflexus and perosomus elumbis as per teratological classification recorded by Roberts (1971).

Complete agenesis of lumbo-sacral region with atresia recti and ani in the monster is a consequential developmental defect of the caudal neural tube, notochord and paraxial and intermediary mesoderm (Buck *et al.*, 2009). Chromosomal aberrations are participating factors of defective skeletal development

and organoagenesis (Jones, 1999). Interplay of multiple gene effect was considered to be genetic mechanism for extensive fetal malformations (Jana and Ghosh, 2001).

Schistosomus reflexus with perosomus acaudatus has been reported in a she buffalo (Chandraprasad *et al.*, 2010). Schistosomus reflexus causes dystocia due to defective formation of spinal chord and exposure of viscera in cattle and buffaloes (Roberts, 1971).

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Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.