DYSTOCIA IN MARATHWADI BUFFALOES DUE TO FOETAL ASCITES ASSOCIATED WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DEFECTS

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ABSTRACT

Foetal ascites, as a cause for maternal dystocia has been reported in two Marathwadi buffaloes.

Key words: Dystocia, Ascites, Buffalo

INTRODUCTION

Incidence of maternal dystocia due to fetal dropsical conditions is very less in bovines (Arthur, *et al,* 1989). A foetal dropsical condition includes foetal ascites which represents excessive accumulation of fluid in the peritoneum. Dropsical conditions lead to absolute oversize of the foetus and hence, reducing size of the foetus or caesarian section is always necessary. Present report records a case of ascites of fetus and its smooth delivery in posterior presentation on fluid centesis followed by traction.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATION

Two primiparous Marathwadi buffaloes due for calving were presented to the obstetrical ward of Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex, Veterinary College, Udgir with history of straining. On examination, absolute oversize of the fetuses was diagnosed foetal abdominal portion was found excessively enlarged. In the second case, pervaginal examination confirmed posterior longitudinal presentation with excessive fluid in the fetal abdomen.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

In first case, foetus was in normal anterior presentation, position and posture through all efforts of pervaginal delivery with traction failed and hence, caesarian section was carried out.

In Second case, the foetal abdomen was punctured at lateral part of right inguinal canal with long needle attached to a saline pipe and fluid was partly drained out. On collapsing of the abdomen, the foetus was delivered out with traction.

In the first case, a 20 kg male dead foetus (fig.1) had zig-zag spinal cord with bent at four places, hind limbs were defective at all joints. Scrotal bag was full with fluid. On post mortem, 23 L of odorless fluid with yellowish appearance was removed. The internal abdominal organs were developed but testicles were found in the peritoneal cavity. The urachus appeared with incomplete tubular tract and probably the ascites was due to accumulation of urine through urachus in the foetal peritoneum.

In second case, a 18 kg male dead foetus (fig.2) was normal in structural appearance with bloated abdomen. Clear transparent fluid oozed out on abdominal puncture. The post mortem examination revealed normalcy of internal organs. About 16 L of fluid was accumulated in the foetal abdomen.

Foetal dropsical conditions have been reported by Honparkhe *et al.* (2003) in a crossbred cow whereas in buffaloes by Bijurkar *et al.* (2004), Srinivas and Sreenu (2006). Foetal ascites is a common accompaniment of infectious disease and developmental defects of foetus (Arthur *et al.* 1989).

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Fig. 1 Fetal ascites in buffalo calf

Fig. 2. Foetal ascites in buffalo calf