The Indian Journal of Animal Reproduction, 24(1): 82, June 2003

CASE REPORT

Dystocia due to hydrocephalus calf in a buffalocow

A. KUMARESAN[1†], ABHISHEK GARG[2], U.S. MAHAPATRA[3], UMA SHANKAR[4] AND S.K. AGARWAL[5]

Division of Animal Reproduction
Indian Veterinary Research Institute - Izatnagar - 243 122 (UP)

Received: January 29, 2002
Accepted: December 3, 2002

ABSTRACT

A case of dystocia due to hydrocephalus calf in a buffalocow has been presented. Dystocia was relieved by incising the soft portion of the hydrocephalus head thereby recuding foetus size.

Key words: Buffalo, Dystocia, Hydrocephalus

Fetal anomalies and monstrosities of various kinds have been recorded in cattle (Roberts, 1971) and occurs sporadically (Arthur *et al.*, 1989) but reports in buffaloes are meagre. The present case is the successful handling of dystocia due to hydrocephalus calf in a buffalocow.

A nine year old Murrah buffalocow at her full term was brought to the veterinary Gynaecology and obstetrics poly clinics , IVRI Izatnagar with the history of dystocia. Clinical examination revealed the buffalo apparently normal, the amniotic bag already been ruptured and the fore limbs were visible from out side. On per vaginal examination under epidural anesthesia, it was observed that the fetus was in anterior presentation, dorso-sacral position, right lateral deviation of head and was tightly engaged in the birth canal. On examination of foetus after retropulsion, the head was found abnormally large with fluid accumulation. The case was diagnosed as hydrocephalus.

To relieve the fetus per vaginum an incision was made on the soft portion of the distended cranium and the fluid was evacuated (Fig.). A Robert's hook was applied over the caranthus of the eye and by mutation head deviation was corrected. Traction was then applied at eye and fore limbs towards ventro-posterior direction and the fetus was relieved.

After relieving the fetus, the dam was examined per vaginum for injuries if any, due to handling. The dam was normal, however, she was administered with calcium (450 ml,i/v), Diclofenac sodium (20 ml, i/m) chlorpheneramine maleate (10 ml/i/m), and furea bolus bolus (4 each i/ut).

Fig.: Hydrocephalus calf born after inciging the distended head

Hydrocephalus is seen mostly in cattle (Balasubramanian *et al.*, 1997, Nandkumar *et al.*, 1999) and rarely in buffaloes (Salunke *et al.*, 2001) when the hydrocephalus is serve enough it results in dystocia and cannot be relieved by even mutation and forced traction and an excessive bony enlargement of cranium may require fetotomy (Roberts, 1971). However, in this case the fetus was relieved successfully by incising the soft portion of hydrocephalic head there by reducing the fetal size.

REFERENCES

Arthur, G.H., Noakes, D.E. and Pearson, H. (1989). Veterinary Reproduction and Obstetrics. Sixth Edition. Bailliere Tindall, 24-28, Oval Road London, N.W. 1.7 D.X., UK Page 120.

Balasubramanian, S., Ashokan, S.A., Seshagiri, V.N. and Pattabiraman, S.R. (1997). Cogenital internal hydrocephalus in a calf Indian Vet. J. 74 (5): 446-447

Nandakumar, S., Ramachandra, K.M. Mohan, S. and Anil Kumar, T.V. (1999). Pathology of bovine congenital external hydrocephalus. Indian Vet. J. 76(9): 847-849

Roberts, S.J. (1971). Veterinary obstetrics and Genital diseases. (Theriogenology) 2nd edn. CBS Publ. New Delhi.

Salunke, S.P., Amle, M.B. and Zambre, P.C. (2001). Dystocia due to hydrocephalus in pandharpuri buffalo. Indian J. Anim. Reprod. 22(1): 96.

[1]Scientist, ICAR Research Complex, NEH, [2]Teaching Asstt., GBPUAT, [3]Veterinary Officer, AP, [4]Principal Scientist, [5]Senor Scientist

[†]Corresponding author