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Complications of Progesterone Therapy for Threatened Abortion in a Cross Bred Cow

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Abortions are common in bovines under field conditions. Administration of progesterone to prevent abortions is common under field condition. If the foetus is already dead, progesterone administration may lead to complications. This communication reports the expulsion of a dead foetus with PGF_2 in progesterone arrested abortion in a cross bred cow.

CASE REPORT

A pluriparous four and half months pregnant cross bred cow was presented to the clinic with a complaint of threatened abortion. Further, it was reported that 10-12 hours earlier a local Veterinarian had injected 500 mg of progesterone (Proluton Dept, German Remedies Pvt. Ltd., Bombay) through intramuscular route to prevent threatened abortion. Animal was subjected for detailed examination. Rectal temperature was 102.0°F. The cow was restless and anorectic. The cow was voiding brownish mucus vaginal discharge. Rectal exploration was carried out. The right horn was gravid and extended deep into the abdominal cavity. The uterine wall was moderately tense with partially dilated cervix. The foetus was not palpable. Per vaginal examination confirmed partial dilatation of cervix allowing the entry of middle finger. An antibiotic treatment (Dicrysticin-S, Large dose, Sarabhai Chemicals Ltd., Baroda) was started and continued for a period of 8 days. The animal was kept under observation. On second day the cow was less restless and appetite slightly improved. On third day, vaginal discharges decreased significantly. On fourth day, cervix and uterus remained unchanged except uterine wall became less tense, on fifty day, the cow became dull and depressed. Rectal temperature was 102.2°F. Vaginal discharges were foetid. Then a dose of $PGF_2\alpha$, 25 mg (Lutalyse, Unichem Laboratories Ltd., Bombay) was administered intramuscularly. A dead foetus was expelled within 48 hours of $PGF_2\alpha$ administration. Putrifactive changes were observed in the foetus. Nanda *et al.,* (1991) also have recorded the consequences of progesterone treatment for threatened abortion in a pluriparous 7 months pregnant buffalo.

Present findings indicate that the foetus might have died well before the progesterone administration. It was thought that the progesterone administration might have suppressed an already started myometrial contractions and thus arrested the process of abortion. The antibiotic treatment might have checked the early putrifactive changes.

It is opined, prior to advocating progesterone administration in threatened abortions, the livability of the foetus, escape of foetal fluids and dilatation of cervix are to be assessed critically. Further, it is suggested, if the cervix has already dilated, progesterone treatment should not be attempted. Such cases may either be allowed or induced to abort.

REFERENCES

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