MANAGEMENT OF COLON AND CLOACAL PROLAPSE IN TURTLE: A REPORT OF FIVE CLINICAL CASES

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Turtles are reptile of the order Chelonii or Testudines characterised by a special bony or cartilaginous shell developed from their ribs that act as a shield.Cloaca is a cylindrical organ that opens to the outside of the turtle's body. In chelonians, the colon, the urinary bladder, the penis of males, the oviducts and shell glands of females, and the cloaca itself may prolapse, that is, slip from their normal position, move down the cloaca and pass out through the anal vent. It receives waste product from the large intestine, bladder and sperm(male) or egg (Sandy and Herpetologist, 2010 and siegmud, 2008).

Case history and Observation

Five cases of turtle presented during the course of two years with history of difficulty in defecation. On clinical examination of cases it was found that three cases of turtle had (weighing approx 800-900 gm) inflammed, swellon, oedematous prolapsed mass protruding from vent. In case no. 4 turtle prolapsed mass was 1.5 inch in length, cold to touch, swellon, discoloured and ishaemic in colour. Further examination diagnosed as above four cases were of cloacal prolapse. Case no. 5 turtle (weighing approx. 150 gm) presented with prolapse of any visceral organ. Clinical examination revealed that colon was prolapsed. The distal part of colon was ischaemic and necrcosed while proximal part was healthy.

Treatment and Discussion

The prolapsed organ was cleaned with normal saline and betadine in all cases. Local anaesthesia was achieved by applying 2% Lignocain gel on prolapse and infiltration with 2% Lignocain around vent .

Out of five, in three cases of turtle prolapsed cloaca were replaced back gently with help of finger after cold fomentation (Fig : 1).

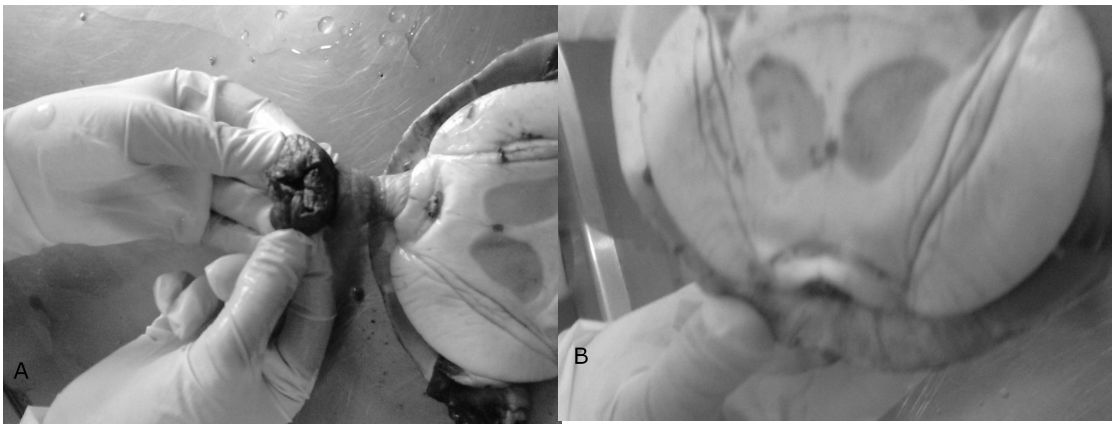

Fig 1 : Prolapsed cloaca (A) and after correction (B)

Care was taken not to injure mucous membrane. Vent opening was narrowed by applying purse sting suture using mersilk no. 2-0 to prevent the recurrence. Predanisolon @ 0.5 mg/kg b.wt. I/M,

was administered for two days followed by decreased dose rate for next two days. A complication was observed in one case that turtle did not defecate till 48 hrs after correction, than a lubricated infant feeding tube no.6 was inserted in to vent resulted passage of waste product (Fig 2).

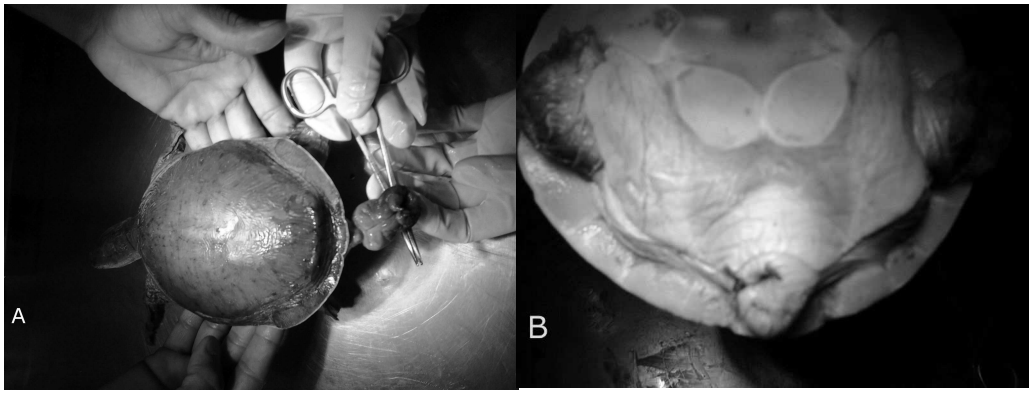

Fig 2 :Prolapse of cloaca(A), insertion of baby feeding tube after 48 hrs of correction (B)

In case no. 4 prolapsed cloaca was ischaemic and could not be replaced back by adopting similar procedure as done in above cases hence it was decided to amputate the part. The case was treated by applying artery forcep on prolapsed cloaca near to the vent and incise circumferentially below the clamp (Fig : 3). After amputation mucous membrane of remaining part was fixed with vent wall by interrupted suture using non absorbable suture material.

Fig 3 : Prolapsed cloaca (A), after amputation (B).

In case no.5 healthier prolapsed colon was replaced back with the help of ear bud and finger while distal necrosed part was removed after applying clamp. Intestinal lumen was fixed with vent opening by interrupted suture using mersilk no. 2-0 for patency.

Post operatively Gentamicine @ 2.5 mg/kg b.wt. I/M,was administered and repeated every 72 hrs for seven days in all cases. Dressing was done using liq. Betadine and ointment T-bact around vent twice daily for 5 days in all cases. All the four cases of cloacal prolapse were recovered successfully and one case of colon prolapse was died after three days.

The exact causes behind cloacal prolapse is unknown.Typically prolapse of cloaca occur due to various causes like : Chronic low blood calcium, straining to urinate, defecate or lay eggs, neurologic dysfunction, excessive libido, trauma, obesity (William, *et al.,*1988). Rectal prolapse can be encountered due to affection of rectum or anus leading to irritation, constipation etc., thereby straining result evertion of rectal mucosa. It is also being reported to be due to excessive straining

in order to remove foreign bodies, smaller stones accidentally ingested by the turtle (Scott, 2007). The tretment of cloacal prolapse is only a way to expand the life span of the turtle.

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