BULL DOG MONSTER CALF WITH ACHONDROPLASIA AND ASCITES IN A CROSS BRED COW

R. Uma Rani* and B.Muruganandan

Veterinary University Training and Research Centre,

Thirupparankundram, Madurai- 625 005, Tamil Nadu

*Corresponding author – email : kamleshharini@yahoo.com

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Various kinds of foetal anomalies and monstrosities cause dystocia in cows (Sloss and Dufty, 1980, Arthur *et al.* 1996 and Sathiamoorthy *et al.*, 2011). Occurrence of “Bull dog” monstrosity is a very rare condition (Noakes *et al.,* 2001). The present report records a case of dystocia due to bull dog monster calf with achondroplasia and ascites in a Jersey cross bred cow.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATION

A pluriparous Jersey cross bred cow at her full term was referred with dystocia to Veterinary University Training and Research Centre, Madurai, Tamil Nadu by a local Veterinary Assistant Surgeon. The cow was associated with prolonged dystocia and ruptured water bags . Previous calvings of the animal were reported to have been normal. On vaginal examination, the passage was found to be normal and the cervix was fully relaxed, but the foetus was abnormal. Foetal movements and other reflexes were absent and hence the foetus was considered dead. The animal was having secondary uterine inertia. The severely deformed foetus caused dystocia due to foetopelvic disproportion. Since mutation on the foetus was not successful, it was decided to perform caesarian operation.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

The animal was given intravenous fluid, cortisone and antibiotics and the animal was prepared for the aseptic surgery. The caesarian section was performed under posterior epidural anesthesia and local infiltration anaesthesia using 2% lignocaine HCl solution and a male dead foetus was relieved. The foetus weighed 39 kg and showed a short broad head, bulging forehead, malocclusions of the jaw, overgrown mandible, shortened upper jaw, prolonged lower jaw (prognathism), nose divided by furrows, protruded tongue, pot belly and short legs (Photo). The foetus was characterized as “bull dog” monster calf with achondroplasia and ascites. On post mortem examination, the thoracic and visceral organs were normal.

Photo. Bull Dog Monster Calf with Achondroplasia and Ascites

Bull dog monster or Dwarfism is a hereditary condition and this condition is most commonly seen in the Dexter, Hereford, Aberdeen, Angus, Ayrshire and Telemark breeds (Roberts, 1971). Now it is reported in a Jersey cross bred cow. It is believed to be caused by a single dominant autosomal gene (Jubb *et al., 1985,* Arthur *et al,* 1996). In achondroplastic fetuses the long bones are abnormally short and the trunk is of normal length. The transverse bone growth is normal, but longitudinal growth is defective with the normal growth of soft tissues. Early cessation of

cartilaginous proliferation causes premature closure of growth lines so that the affected bones remain short (Sloss and Duffy, 1980, Jubb *et al.,* 1985).

Ascites may be due to overproduction or inefficient removal of peritoneal liquid (Sloss and Dufty, 1980) or cystic kidneys with diminishted urinary excretion. Since the internal organs of the foetus were normal in the present case, ascites might be due to overproduction or inefficient removal of peritoneal liquid. The severely deformed bull dog monster foetus with achondroplasia and ascites might have caused dystocia in the present case due to foetopelvic disproportion as also observed by Sloss and Dufty, (1980).

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