FETAL MUMMIFICATION IN A JERSEY CROSSBRED COW

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Fetal mummification is a reproductive disorder causes economic loss of the farm not only by extending the inter-calving interval but also due to the fetal loss (Sutradhar et al., 2010). The incidence of mummified fetus in cow is low and sporadic (Roberts, 1971) and varies between 0.13 - 1.8% (Morrow, 1986). Hence the present report records a successful delivery of a mummified fetus.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATION

A pleuriparous crossbred Jersey cow was brought to Veterinary College and Research Institute Hospital Campus with the history of calving 8 months back, bred at artificial insemination unit of the Institute 5 months ago and was showing oestrus signs like bellowing and vaginal discharge since the previous day evening. Per rectal examination of the cow revealed that the cervix was at the level of pelvic brim and a firm mass of fetus inside the tightly contracted uterus was felt without fetal fluid and placentomes. The fremitus was also absent. Per vaginal examination revealed a patent cervix which was fully dilated and the hard firm fetus was present inside the uterus and the case was diagnosed as mummified fetus.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

The cow was given epidural anaesthesia with 2 ml of 2% Lignocaine hydrochloride. The birth passage was lubricated with cetrimide cream and the fetus was delivered by manual traction by applying head snare. The fetus was reddish brown in color with empty orbit and the placenta was parchment like covering the entire fetus. After the removal of the fetus the cow was treated with inj. Enrofloxacin (2000 mg, I/M), inj. Meloxicam (200 mg, I/M), inj. Chlorpheniramine maleate (225 mg, i/m), inj. Oxytocin (30 IU, I/M) and Sol. Povidone iodine (120 ml, I/Uterine). The treatment with antibiotic, antihistamine and intra uterine antiseptic was continued for 3 days. The owner was advised to feed the cow with mineral supplement for one month. The animal was presented to artificial insemination unit at 40 days after the fetal delivery with the history of mucus discharge. Rectal examination revealed completely involuted uterus and it was in tone. The animal was inseminated with Jersey crossbred semen and the pregnancy was confirmed after 2 months. The cow calved normally after 278 days of artificial insemination.

Breed and previous occurrence was seem to be risk factors with a higher incidence of fetal mummification in Guernsey and Jersey cattle, and a higher risk (30%) of recurrence in cows that experienced a similar event in a previous gestation (Roberts, 1971). However in the present case the recurrence of the condition was not noticed and the cow calved normally in subsequent pregnancy. In cattle, fetal mummification occurs after formation of the placenta and fetal ossification (70 d gestation). Most often, it occurs between the 3rd and 8th months of gestation (Roberts, 1971). Successful calving following relieving of mummified fetus in our study indicates the spontaneous recovery of fetal mummification as previously opined elsewhere (Roberts, 1971).

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