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Case Report

DYSTOCIA CAUSED BY A DICEPHALUS MONSTER FETUS IN A BUFFALO—A CASE REPORT

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Dicephalus congenital abnormality is a kind of conjoined twins in which two heads share a single body. A successful delivery of a dicephalus monster buffalo fetus through manual correction (mutation) and forced traction applying obstetrical chain and rope was recorded.

Keywords: Dicephalic monster, Congenital abnormality, Buffalo, Correction, Obstretical

INTRODUCTION

Monstrosities are malformed fetuses, which are rare in buffaloes (Chauhan and Verma, 1995; and Bugalia *et al*., 2001). Fetal anomalies and monstrosities are common cause of dystocia in bovines (Shukla *et al*., 2007) and are disturbances of development that involve the sexual organs and cause great distortion of the individual (Vegad, 2007). Monstrosities are associated with either congenital defects or infectious disease (Arthur *et al*., 2001) and may or may not interfere with birth (Sharma *et al*., 2010; and Gupta *et al*., 2011). Duplication of the cranial part of the fetus is more common than that of caudal portion (Roberts, 2004). Varying degree of fusion occurs but anterior duplications are more seen in ruminants and swine (Arthur *et al.*, 2001). Dystocia is common sequelae of fetal monstrosities. It is important to know various types of monsters which cannot be removed without Caesarean section most of the time (Sharma, 2006; and Gupta *et al*., 2011). Fetotomy offers a good alternative to the caesarean for relieving a fetal monster causing dystocia (Vermunt, 2009).While the present report describesrelieving dystocia due to dicephalic monsters fetus in buffalo by manual correction (mutation) and forced traction without fetotomy and caesarean section.

CASE HISTORY AND CLINICAL OBSERVATION

An obstretical case of buffalo was handled at village Rampura, Sirohi, Rajasthan in month of June on phone call by an owner and given the case history, a five-and-half-year-old primiparous she Murrah buffalo with natural service and full term gestation period,with complaint that in spite of continuous straining for last 8 hrs after the expulsion of first water bag, there was no

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progression to the stage of parturition. Clinical examination revealed an increase in respiration and pulse rate with normal rectal temperature. Obstetrical examination revealed, an abnormal dicephalic fetus joined at neck in anterior longitudinal presentation, dorso-sacral position with bilaterally flexed knee joint. As the fetus was a monster and in dorso-sacral position. Manual correction (mutation) and forced traction was done applying obstretical chain and rope.

TREATMENTS AND DISCUSSION

The case was examined and observed that both fore limbs and trunk of fetus engaged in birth canal, head and forelimbs which were deviated downwardly and flexed. Deviated head and flexed limbs were corrected manually. Forced traction was applied on both extended fore limbs by obstetrical rope and head by obstetrical chain with proper lubrication leads to delivery of dead fetus. After the delivery of dead fetusthe buffalo was given symptomatic treatment which included inj. Dexamethasone 10 ml (i/v), inj. 20% Dextrose fluid 3 liters (i/v) , inj. Vitamin B-complex 10 ml (i/m), inj. Calcium borogluconate 450 ml(slow i/v), inj.Chlorpheniramine maleate 10 ml (i/m), inj. Oxytocin 50 IU (i/v), inj. Ceftriaxone and tazobactum 4.5 gm (i/m). Thorough examination of fetus revealed that fetus had two fully developed heads on single neck, with two fore and two hind limbs. One of the head was aligned with the cervical vertebrae. The neck, thorax, abdomen and limbs were grossly normal. Both the heads had separate ears but the pinnae of the medial ears were fused at the base. The neck, thorax, abdomen and limbs were grossly normal. Dicephalus monsters have been reported in buffaloes (Chauhan and Verma, 1995; Raju *et al.*, 2000; Bugalia *et al.*, 2001; and Srivastva *et al.*, 2008) and cows (Chandrahasan *et al*., 2003; Patil *et al.,* 2004; and John Abrahan *et al*., 2007).

Figure 1: Dicephalus Huffalo Calf Monster

Double or conjoined monsters usually arise from a single ovum and are monozygotic. They are result of incomplete division of a fertilized ovum and show great variation from partial duplication to almost complete separation of two individuals, joined in just a few places. Jones and Hunt (1983) stated that the causes of many congenital anomalies are essentially unknown; however, the important known causes are prenatal infection with a virus, teratogens ingested by mother, vitamin deficiency (Vit-A and folic acid), genetic factors and/or combination of these factors. The zygote (<14 days) is susceptible to genetic mutations and chromosomal aberrations. During the period of embryonic development (day 14 to 42 days), the embryo is highly susceptible to teratogens, and the effect decreases gradually

as embryo matures to fetus (Morrow, 1986). It is thought that some factors are responsible for the failure of twins to separate after the 13th day after fertilization (Srivastava *et al*., 2008) that result in conjoined twins. While, the present case report describes relieving dystocia due to dicephalic monster in buffalo by manual correction (mutation) and forced traction applying obstretical chain and rope with preventive measures.

SUMMARY

Present case describes about a monster removed by mutation and forced traction.

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