

Short Communication

MIGRATORY FOREIGN BODY AND POST-PHARYNGEAL ABSCESS IN A COW

Various types of foreign bodies in the lumen of the oesophagus of cattle causing choke have been reported. But reports of foreign bodies migrating from the oesophagus to the skin surface are few. Archibald *et al.* (1986) reported choking in a dog due to an abscess in the post-pharyngeal region caused by a sewing needle. Ganesh *et al.* (1989) and Balagopalan *et al.* (1994) reported post-pharyngeal abscess in dogs due to a migratory foreign body (fish bone). The present paper reports case of post-pharyngeal abscess in a cow due to a migratory foreign body metallic wire.

An adult crossbred cow aged four years was presented at the Veterinary College Hospital, Mannuthy, with the history of progressive dyspepsia and dysphagia over a period of one month. On examination of the animal, a hot, painful swelling 6 cm in length starting from a point just behind the pharynx and in level with the oesophagus was noticed on the left side

of the neck. Exploratory puncture of the swelling did not reveal the presence of any pus. But the movement of the needle within the swelling, revealed metallic grating. Hence, it was decided to explore the swelling. The animal was controlled on standing position and the area was prepared for aseptic surgery. Local infiltration analgesia at the site of incision was produced using 3 ml of Lignocaine hydrochloride* 2% solution. A 2 cm long incision was made at the middle of the swelling, cutting through the skin and sub cutis. The small quantity of thick pus present was removed by swabbing. The cavity was explored to confirm the presence of a four cm long metallic wire. The cavity was irrigated with potassium permanganate lotion and the metallic wire was extricated in two pieces.

The cavity was cleaned and packed with gauze impregnated with Tr. Iodine. The animal was given Benzathine Penicillin ** 24 lakhs units intramuscularly. The wound dressing

* *Xylocaine 2% - Lignocaine Hydrochloride 2% solution by Astra IDL Ltd., Bangalore.*

** *Penidure LA 24 - Benzathine Penicillin 24 lakhs units by Wyeth Lederle Limited, Mumbai - 400 086*

with Nitrofurazone ointment*** was continued for seven days and the healed up without any complications.

From the clinical evidence, it could be inferred that the ingested foreign body might have penetrated the oesophagus and was lodged in the extraoesophageal tissue causing abscessation.

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*** *Furacin-Vet Soluble ointment - Nitrofurazone ointment by Eskayef Limited, Bangalore - 560 049*

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