

Short Communication

A CASE OF PERSISTENT HYMEN AND ITS SURGICAL CORRECTION IN A BITCH – A REPORT

The common congenital anomalies of the vagina include rectovaginal fistula, segmental hypoplasia, persistent hymen (Wykes and Olson, 1993) and rarely double vagina (Capel-Edwards, 1977). Various forms of persistent hymen have been reported in bitches, namely a vertical septum or an annulus fibrous stricture (Holt and Salye, 1981). A case of persistent hymen in the form of a vertical vaginal band in a bitch is reported.

History and clinical findings

A two year old Alsatian bitch was presented with the history of intense licking of the vulva. Further it was reported that the bitch, even while in heat, did not allow the male dog to mount. Vaginal examination revealed a congested vagina. A tough fibrous vertical band running from the roof to the floor of the vagina was palpated on digital examination cranial to the urethral opening. It was diagnosed as a case of persistent hymen and the bitch was prepared for surgery.

Operative technique

The bitch was premedicated with 1 ml of atropine sulphate intramuscularly and 15 mg of triflupromazine hydrochloride intravenously. Anaesthesia was induced with 2.5% thiopentone sodium to effect. An urethral catheter was placed *in situ* until the surgery was completed. A dorsal episiotomy was performed to expose the vagina and a thick vertical fibrous band was seen extending from the roof to the floor obstructing almost one third of the vaginal

cavity. The vaginal band was completely excised and removed. After checking for bleeding, the episiotomy wound was closed in three layers, using simple continuous sutures for vaginal mucosa and submucosa using 1/0 catgut and simple interrupted sutures for the skin using silk.

The bitch was given 500 mg of Ampicillin intramuscularly for 5 days and the animal recovered uneventfully.

Discussion

The congenital anomalies of the dog's reproductive tract are caused by either developmental inhibitions of portions of the paramesonephric ducts or aberrations in the pattern of fusion of each other or to the urogenital sinus. (Wykes and Olson, 1993) Wykes and Soderberg (1983) suggested that incomplete fusion of the caudal paramesonephric ducts with retention of a medial partition could result in an elongated vertical vaginal band, as seen in this case. Vaginitis has been found to be the common clinical finding in such cases, which could result from inadequate drainage of the cranial portion of the vagina and uterus.

The bitch was mated successfully during the next heat and it whelped without complications.

Summary

A case of persistent hymen and its successful surgical correction in a bitch is reported.

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