

Short Communication

ANOPHTHALMIA AND PROGNATHISM IN A GOAT FOETUS

Out of 50 foetuses collected from the local abattoir, one goat foetus showed a gross malformation of the face. Grossly the head was enlarged as to present a rounded appearance of the face. Both the eyelids were fused except at the inner canthus where a minute circular opening 'lidgap' (Spaeth *et al.*, 1982) was seen indicating partial fusion of eyelids. True anophthalmia was noticed

and orbits were filled with adipose tissue. From the labial commissures laterally the lips were directed downward and forward exhibiting the shape of an inverted pallasquin. The body of the premaxilla was present in the form of a pointed end just below the ill developed nares. The body of the maxilla on the left side was enlarged causing a distortion of the facial contour (Fig.).



Gross examination of the brain revealed enlargement of corpora quadrigemina with the other structures apparently normal in size. Examination of the cervical region showed a rudimentary thyroid measuring 0.5 cm in width, while the rest of the structures were apparently normal.

Such abnormalities in foetus result from a variety of teratogenic agents. The probable cause of the said abnormality may include adverse environmental changes early in

pregnancy (Spaeth *et al.*, 1982) severe Vit. A deficiency in dam and also certain essential vitamins, minerals, and amino acids (Roberts, 1971). Viral infection in early gestation period of the dam has also been ascribed to foetal deformities. The final outcome of a tetragenic defect may be intrauterine death, growth retardation, malformation (or) functional deficit (Spaeth *et al.*, 1982). Since the malformed foetus was obtained from the slaughter house, etiology could not be ascertained.

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### References

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