

Short communication

AN INCIDENCE OF FOETAL ASCITIS IN A BUFFALO

Foetal ascitis, a seldom reported congenital abnormality in animals is severe enough to cause dystocia. Foetal ascitis may be due to an obstruction of the lymphatics (Sloss and Dufty, 1980) or diminished urinary excretion (Jubb and Kennedy, 1970) or rarely due to *Brucella abortus* infection (Roberts, 1971). Devanathan *et al.* (1990) had reported a case of foetal ascitis with mild anasarca in a buffalo. The present paper reports an incidence of foetal ascitis in a pluriparous buffalo.

A case of dystocia in a non descript buffalo aged six years with a partially presented foetus was referred to the Department of Surgery. On examination, the general condition of the animal was found to be fair. Vaginal examination revealed fully dilated cervix with the foetus impacted against pelvic inlet. It was impossible to pass even a finger beyond the shoulder joint of the foetus and hence hysterotomy was performed.

The exposed Head and forelimbs of the foetus were amputated and removed. Administered 25 mg of Xylazine* intra muscular and controlled the animal on right lateral recumbency. Performed hysterotomy under local infiltration anaesthesia using Lignocaine hydrochloride** 2 per cent solution. The right uterine horn containing the foetus was heavy, preventing the exposure of the horn at the incision. An incision was made on the uterine

wall near the body and lifted the foetal hind limbs. The obstruction on traction revealed the abnormality of the foetal abdomen. Incised the inguinal region of the foetus which relieved about 10 litres of clear watery fluid. Removed the foetus and completed the hysterotomy in routine manner. The size of the foetus and deformity of its legs indicated the premature condition of the foetus. The integumentary system of the foetus was normal. The abnormally enlarged abdomen with the fluid inside confirmed this condition as foetal ascitis. However placental oedema was not observed in this case as reported by Iyengar (1943) and Sastry *et al.* (1975). The dam had an uneventful recovery.

Summary

An incidence of Foetal ascitis in a buffalo is reported.

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* Xylacad - Xylazine 20 mg/ml Cadila Pharmaceuticals, Ahmedabad.

** Xylacaine 2% - Lignocaine hydrochloride - 2% ASTRA IDL Ltd., Bangalore.

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