FOREIGN BODY INDUCED RUMINAL IMPACATION IN A BUFFALO CALF

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ABSTRACT

This communication reports a case of ruminal impaction associated with tympany in a buffalo calf caused by ingestion of non-penetrating foreign bodies. It was successfully treated by rumenotomy without any postoperative complications.

Keywords: ruminal impaction, foreign bodies, buffalo calf

INTRODUCTION

Primary ruminal impaction occurs in cattle and buffaloes mostly with depraved appetite (Tyagi and Jit Singh, 1999). Chronic ruminal tympany occurs relatively frequently in calves up to six months of age without any apparent cause; the condition usually disappears spontaneously in time and the cause in most cases is undetermined (Radostits and Blood, 1994). Available literature indicates that the tympany associated with undigestible foreign bodies does not respond to rumenatorics and antiflatulants (Reddy et al., 2004). In the present case, ruminal impaction with bloat was reported. Incidence of this condition in buffalo calves is rare.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The left para lumbar fossa was prepared for aseptic surgery. Then rumenotomy was performed as per standard technique. When the rumen was opened different types of undigestible foreign bodies like - nylon rope (four feet length), shampoo sachets, plastic bags, pieces of gunny bags etc., (Figure 2) were found entangled impacting the rumen; these were removed. Fresh rumen cud from a slaughter house, probiotics and B complex syrup were introduced into the rumen before closing it. The Laparotomy incision was closed as per standard technique. Postoperatively, streptopenicillin 1.0 gm i/m for seven days, meloxicam 5 ml i/m for three days, DNS 500 ml i/v for three days and B complex

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3 ml I/m for three days were given. Skin sutures were removed on the 10th postoperative day. The calf recovered uneventfully.

In calves, the cause of ruminal tympany in most cases is undifferentiated (Radostits and Blood, 1994) and usually bloat does not develop in cases of ruminal impaction (Tyagi and Jit Singh, 1999). In the present study, the indiscriminate grazing by the calf can be attributed to the insufficient feeding by the owner, forcing it to eat foreign materials to satisfy the appetite. Since the undigestible material increased the rumen motility, the same might have entangled to form a big lump posing difficulty during eructation and its removal. Reddy et al. (2004) also reported the incidence of undigestible foreign bodies in the reticulo rumen of Punganur cows and bulls leading to their death. Early surgical intervention might have saved them.

Figure 1. Unilateral distension of left flank.

Figure 2. Non-penetrating foreign bodies recovered from rumen.

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Table 1. Haematobiochemical changes in the buffalo.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Hb (gm%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>PCV (%)</td>
<td>27.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>TLC (cumm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>DLC</td>
<td>N (%)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>SGOT (U/L)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>SGPT (U/L)</td>
<td>64.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ca (gm/dl)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
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REFERENCES


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