ABSTRACT

A successful delivery of diprosopus monster through caesarean section is recorded.

Keywords: Diprosopus monster, buffalo, congenital anomaly

INTRODUCTION

A monster is a malformed fetus. Monstrosity is a disturbance of the development that involves sexual organs and causes great distortion of the individual (Vegad, 2007). Monstrosities are associated with either infectious disease or congenital defects (Arthur et al., 2001) and may or may not interfere with birth. Abnormal duplication of the germinal area in the fetus will give rise to congenital fetal abnormalities with partial duplication of body structures. Duplication of the cranial portion of the fetus is more common than that of the caudal portion (Robert, 2004). It is important to know various types of monsters in animals which usually cause dystocia, end which cannot be easily removed and so demand caesarean most of the time (Patil et al., 2004; Sharma, 2006).

CASE HISTORY AND CLINICAL EXAMINATION

An eight-year-old indigenous buffalo with normal gestation was brought to the Veterinary Hospital Berthin. The animal was presented with complaint that in spite of consistent straining for the previous eight hours after the expulsion of the first water bag, there was no progression to second stage of labor. Obstetrical examination revealed presence of abnormal fetus with two palpable heads joined at around 45° to each other in anterior longitudinal presentation, dorso-sacral position with both forelimbs in birth canal. Since forced extraction was not possible, caesarean section was done.

TREATMENTS AND DISCUSSION

The paramedian laparohystrectomy was performed under local analgesia after restraining the animal in lateral recumbancy. The uterus was exteriorized to deliver a dead abnormal male fetus/calf. Incision was closed in routine manner. The buffalo was treated with injection amoxycillin cloxacillin combination 5 mg/kg b.wt, injection Meloxicam 0.5 mg/ kg b.wt and supportive therapy for 7 days. The sutures were removed after 10 days.
The fetus had two heads on a single neck (Figure 1 and 2). One of the heads was better aligned with the spine. The pinnae of the medial ears were fused at the base. The neck, thorax, abdomen and limbs were grossly normal. These observations are in consonance with the earlier findings (Fisher et al., 1986). Dicephalus monsters have been reported in goats (Pandit et al., 1994), buffaloes (Chauhan and Verma, 1995; Raju et al., 2000; Bugalia et al., 2001; Srivastva et al., 2008) and cows (Chandarhasan et al., 2003; Patil et al., 2004; John Abraham et al., 2007). The embryonic duplications are malformation due to abnormal duplication of the germinal area giving rise to fetuses whose body structures are partially duplicated. The embryonic disk starts to differentiate on the 13th day. If the split occurs after day 13, then the twins will share body parts in addition to sharing their chorion and amnion (Finberg, 1994). Conjoined twins may be caused by any number of factors, being influenced by genetic and environmental conditions. It is presently thought that these factors are responsible for the failure of twins to separate after the 13th day after fertilization (Srivastva et al., 2008). Jones and Hunt (1983) stated that the causes of many congenital anomalies are essentially unknown; however, the important known causes are prenatal infection with a virus, poisons ingested by mother, vitamin deficiency (A and folic acid), genetic factors and/or combination of these factors.

REFERENCES


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