DYSTOCIA DUE TO CECOCEPHALUS MONSTER IN A GRADED MURRAH BUFFALO

Vidya Sagar Pentyala, M. Sreenu, V. Karuna Sri and K. Rajesh

ABSTRACT

In this report, an atypical form of Cebocephalus monster is described in a graded Murrah buffalo male calf. The changes were confined to the head and abdomen. The most significant malformation was the presence of a centrally located orbit with two eye balls which were not fused. Other defects included fetal ascitis and congenital hairlessness (hypotrichiosis). The possible cause of this congenital defect could not be ascertained.

Keywords: Dystocia, Cebocephalus, buffalo

INTRODUCTION

Cebocephaly is a developmental defect in which the orbits are abnormally close together and incorrectly oriented rostrally during embryonic development giving monkey face appearance (Noden, 1985)

CASE HISTORY AND CLINICAL OBSERVATIONS

A 5-year-old graded Murrah buffalo in its second parity was brought to the Veterinary Poly Clinic with the history of active labour for the preceding 6 h. The amniotic bag had already been ruptured and the limbs were visible in the birth canal. On detailed vaginal examination, an abnormally dome shaped head was noticed. On deeper per vaginal examination, an abnormally distended fluid filled abdomen was noticed and the condition was diagnosed as a foetal monster. It was decided to deliver the fetus by Caesarean section.

TREATMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Caesarean section was performed through left paramedial approach as per the routine procedure under pre-medication with Triflupromazine followed by local infiltration with 2% lignocaine hydro chloride. A male dead foetal monster was delivered. Gross examination revealed severe reduction of facial features; the calf had a centrally located orbit (Figure 1) with two eye balls. The

1Veterinary Poly Clinic, Gudiwada, Krishna District, 521301, A.P, India
2Department of Surgery and Radiology, N.T.R. College of Veterinary Science, Gannavaram, India
3N.T.R. College of Veterinary Science, Gannavaram, India
4Department of Medicine, N.T.R. College of Veterinary Science, Gannavaram, India
eye lids and all the skeletal structures of the nose were absent. The calf had a dome-shaped head, centrally located orbit with protruded tongue giving it a monkey-face-like appearance. It had an abnormally distended abdomen due to the accumulation the fluid (ascitis) and was hairless. On exploration, straw-colored fluid was observed. No other abnormalities were found.

Cebocephaly and cyclopia have been classified under teratological defects of embryonic development (Roberts, 1971). Compared with cyclopia, cebocephaly is less a severe form of holoprosencephaly. It was a developmental defect commonly seen in pigs and sheep but observed in all species. In the present case the exact cause is unknown, but this condition is known to be due to ingestion of *Veratum californicum* in sheep (Binns *et al.*, 1960; 1963).

In the available literature, there were very few reports available on cebocephaly in buffalo calves.

**REFERENCES**


Figure 1. Legends: Photomicrograph showing cebocephalus calf.