Case Report

SUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT OF DYSTOCIA DUE TO INCOMPLETE ABORTION IN A BUFFALO

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ABSTRACT

This communication reports a case of dystocia due to fetal maldisposition and incompletely dilated and indurated cervix during abortion in the eighth month in a pluriparous buffalo. The fetal maldisposition was due to dorso-iliac right position with left lateral deviation of head and neck in anterior longitudinal presentation of fetus. The buffalo was successfully handled for dystocia with an uneventful recovery.

Keywords: dystocia, incomplete abortion, buffalo

INTRODUCTION

Dystocia due to failure of cervix to dilate is seen occasionally in cows and ewes and very rarely in other domestic animals. In cases of abortion, stenosis or atresia of cervix may occur and cervix may not dilate fully, which may be due to hormonal factors that prevent normal relaxation and dilatation of cervix (Roberts, 1971). In a study by Srinivas (2007), the incidence of incomplete dilatation of cervix was 13.1 percent, which was relieved by allowing finite amounts of time (four cases); therapy to cause cervical dilatation (four cases) and cesarean section in cases with therapeutic failure (three cases), with an overall dam survival rate of 81.8 percent. Fetal dystocia is encountered quite often in abortive attempts in a dam. Amongst different reasons, the deviation of head and neck of fetus in anterior presentation are most common (Roberts, 1971) and may be in any direction (Das, 2009). The lateral deviation of head especially in a dead fetus becomes life threatening for the dam due to uterine contractions in inappropriately treated cases (Sane et al., 1994).

The present communication reports successful management of a case of dystocia due to contracting cervix with fetal maldisposition during unsuccessful abortion in a buffalo.

HISTORY AND CLINICAL OBSERVATIONS

A pluriparous buffalo was presented in the Veterinary Clinical Complex of the institution with the history of labour pains initiated two days before. The buffalo had completed 8 months of gestation and was attended by a local veterinarian for relieving dystocia. The buffalo had calved once earlier and there was no history of any complication during the previous parturition. Water bags had ruptured 2 days before. On general examination, the buffalo appeared dull, depressed and dehydrated as assessed from moistening of muzzle. The buffalo was anorectic for last 2 days. Defecation and...
urination was normal. Udder engorgement and relaxation of sacrosciatic ligament were absent. Both the fore limbs of the fetus were present in the birth canal. Per-vaginal examination revealed an indurated cervix, indicating its secondary complications. The cervical canal allowed the entry of one hand. The fetus was presented in anterior longitudinal presentation, dorso-iliac right position with left lateral deviation of head and neck. The fetus was dead, emphysematous with broken jaws and eye sockets that indicated unsuccessful traction attempts at the level of farmer doorstep. The uterine cavity was dry and devoid of any lubrication.

The case was diagnosed as dystocia due to indurated, incompletely dilated cervix and dorso-iliac right position with left lateral deviation of the head and neck of the fetus.

**TREATMENTS AND DISCUSSION**

Under epidural anaesthesia using 2 percent lignocaine hydrochloride, both the forelimbs were snared with cotton ropes and repelled back into the uterus. After thorough lubrication of the birth canal with 2 percent carboxymethyl cellulose gel, the fetal position and posture were corrected by repulsion, version and adjustment of extremities. As both eye sockets and jaws were broken, the third snare was tied on the neck behind the occiput of the calf for facilitation of traction. All the three snares were applied simultaneous traction in a ventral direction and a dead male fetus was delivered (Figure 1). Following delivery, the buffalo was treated with injection 2.5 gm streptopenicillin b.i.d for 5 days (i.m), normal saline solution (0.9% sodium chloride) 5 liters daily for 2 days (i.v), calcium borogluconate (350 ml slow i/v and 150 ml s/c) and Meloxicam 100 mg i.m. for 5 days. As the buffalo had aborted in the last trimester of pregnancy, paired serum samples, were screened for brucellosis using the rose bengal plate test and tube agglutination test. However, the samples were found negative for brucellosis. The animal was discharged.

![Figure 1. Dead male fetus delivered by traction.](image)

**REFERENCES**


