

Rectovaginal Fistula in a Buffalo

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Generally, rectovaginal fistula is a developmental anomaly and congenital condition in which there is formation of passage between rectum and vagina (Venugopalan, 1994). However, the present paper deals with a rare case of acquired rectovaginal fistula and its treatment in an adult buffalo.

History and Clinical Examination

A nine year old buffalo parturited before 24 hours was presented with the history of defecation through anus as well as vagina. History further revealed improper handling of foetus and uterus by quack while parturition.

Per-vaginal examination revealed that there was tear at dorsal side of vagina and on per rectal examination same tear was observed at ventral side. Thus, rectovaginal fistula was confirmed and planned for surgical repair.

Treatment :

Epidural anaesthesia was given with 2% lignocaine hydrochloride. After development of anaesthesia, the fistulous opening was sutured with figure of eight knot sutures. Post-operatively magnesium sulphate plus castor oil enema was given for 5 days. Further, Amoxicillin-Cloxacin injection @ 2 gm IM for 5 days and Ketoprofen @ 10 ml IM for 3 days were administered.

Discussion

Third degree perineal lacerations involving anus and rectum, leading to rectovaginal fistula occur rarely in ruminants (Tyagi and Singh, 1996). The present case was presented with the history of improper handling of foetus and uterus during parturition followed by passage of faeces through vagina and anus. Which was due to a rectovaginal tear.

Depending upon the symptoms, per-vaginal and per-rectal examination, the diagnosis was confirmed. Surgical treatment was effected by placement of eight knot sutures. Routine post-operative antibiotic and anti-inflammatory drug therapy with enema for 5 days recovered the animal uneventfully.

Summary

A case of rectovaginal fistula was presented to clinics following parturition. The fistula was surgically treated by giving epidural anaesthesia and placement of eight knot sutures.

References

1. Tyagi, R.P.S. and Singh, J. (1996): Ruminant Surgery. CBS Publishers and Distributors. Delhi pp. 222-223.
2. Venugopalan, A. (1994): Essentials of Veterinary Surgery. Edn. 7th Oxford and IBH Publishers Co. Pvt. Ltd. Bombay pp. 28-29.

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