

Uterine inertia in bitch

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Uterine inertia that is lack of normal physiologic uterine contraction during or after parturition, is a common condition encountered in bovine. However, it is comparatively less reported in canine.

Primary inertia is due to a hormonal dysfunction. Secondary uterine inertia due to exhaustion of uterine muscle have been reported (Robert, 1971).

Case history

A primiparous bitch was presented to the "Taeching Veterinary Clinical Service Complex, Nagpur", with the history of normal and full completion of gestation period of 65 days with distension of abdomen engorgement of mammary gland but no sign of labor. The bitch was previously treated by private clinician with oxytocin. Clinical history revealed that the bitch had normal sign of labour for a period of 12 hours. Radiological examination revealed single foetus with anterior presentation and dorsopubic position.

Treatment

The bitch was given oxytocin (pitocin) 2 iu and inj epidocin 2 ml by intramuscular route which failed to initiate the uterine contractions and hence a higher dose of pitocin 5 iu intramuscular was given after 6 hours as suggested by Romagnoli, et al. (2004). However, the bitch did not show sign of labour. Lateral abdominal radiograph showed a single foetus in anterior presentation with dorso-pubic position. Per vaginal examinations revealed that the vaginal canal

contracted and dry and the os was open was lubricated with petroleum jelly and a whelping forceps was introduced. The head of foetus was frapsed with the forcep and foetus was taken out with gentle monoever.

The bitch was treated with antibiotic i.e. Cefotaxim 250mg and meloxicum 1ml by intramuscular route dextrose 5% 200ml by intravenous route for a period of 3 days and uneventful recovery was recorded.

Bitches being multiperous, it is generally difficult to identify the presentation and position of individual foetus in per abdominal palpation. Furture, the overlappinjg of foetuses in the horns posses problem in identifying the exact positioning of foetuses in lateral radiograph. However, in the present case, the presentation and position could be easily identified owing to single foetus in the uterus. Inspite of normal anterior position and dorsopubic presentation the uterine inertia resulted in failure of uterine and abdominal contractions and the bitch did not expel the foetus although the os was open. Lubrication of the veginal canal and gentle manipulation of the foetus was whelping forceps helped in successful delivery of the pup through the vaginal passage.

References

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2. Roberts S. J. (1982): Uterine Inertia. In: Veterinary Obstetrics & Genital Diseases. 2nd ed. CBS publishers and distributors. pp. 231.

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