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Abhishek Bhardwaj

M.V.Sc. Scholar, ARGO, Nagpur
Veterinary College, Nagpur,
Maharashtra, India

SK Sheetal

Assistant Professor, Department
of Veterinary Gynaecology and
Obstetrics, Bihar Veterinary
College, BASU, Patna, Bihar,
India

MS Bawaskar

Assistant Professor, Department
of ARGO, Nagpur Veterinary
College, Nagpur, Maharashtra,
India

Corresponding Author:

SK Sheetal

Assistant Professor, Department
of Veterinary Gynaecology and
Obstetrics, Bihar Veterinary
College, BASU, Patna, Bihar,
India

Fruitful delivery of a live kid via Schaffer's method in goat uterine torsion

Abhishek Bhardwaj, SK Sheetal and MS Bawaskar

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Abstract

Uterine torsion can be one of the causes of maternal dystocia and lead to fetal and maternal death if get untreated. This case report focuses on the treatment aspect of uterine torsion by the Plank method. The live delivery was made possible because of the attentive nature of the owner. Both maternal and fetus were in good health and thus a positive outcome is highly related to the early presence of the case to the veterinarian.

Keywords: Uterine torsion, Schaffer's method, goat etc.

Introduction

Uterine torsion most frequently observed in Bovine and comparatively low in small ruminants and results in partial or complete obstruction of caudal part of uterine body preventing passage of new born (Jackson 2004) [2]. The use of Schaffer's method is regularly used in case of bovines but its application is rarely reported in Sheep and Goats. Uterine torsion, is a kind of dystocia due to uterine displacement which is infrequently noticed in goats and defined by the Noakes *et al.* 2001 [1] as the rotation of the uterus on its longitudinal axis either from the anterior or posterior portion of the cervix or on the cervix. Incidence rates in goats are around 2% of all dystocia cases from the dam origin (Jackson 2004) [2]. This study reports the delivery of one live male kid after successfully deteriorating with the Plank method/ Sharma's Modified Schaffer method.

Case history and treatment: A non-descript, four years old goat, in her third parity was presented to the Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex, Nagpur Veterinary College, Nagpur in the morning hours with the history of excessive bleating from yesterday evening and non-delivery of the fetus even continuous straining from the morning 6:00 A.M. On the clinical examination, the rectal temperature, and mucous membranes were found normal and the animal was apparently healthy. The vulva was washed with a weak potassium permanganate (KMnO₄) solution before examination and proper lubrication i. e. soyabean oil was applied. On per vaginal examination, the twisting of the hand toward the right side was felt and the fetus was palpable behind the twist. This was then confirmed as right-sided post cervical torsion of >180 degrees. Before proceeding any further, the doe was administered with 2 ml dexamethasone and 2 ml Chlorpheniramine maleate injection.

The goat was restrained on her right lateral recumbency and then a wooden plank was fixed after palpating the fetus with mild force as small ruminants don't require heavy fixation as in cattle and buffaloes (Fig1). Only two persons helped in fixing this from both ends and minimal force was applied. The roll was given towards the right side at full speed by grasping the forelimbs and hind limbs of the dam. As soon as the rolling was over, the first water bag appeared from the vulva immediately (Fig: 2). This was ruptured and the fetus was delivered manually and a live male kid was delivered (Fig: 3. Post-delivery, the doe was treated with intravenous Dextrose 5%, Inj. Ceftriaxone 500 mg and Inj. Megludyne 2 ml Intramuscularly and liq. Involon 25 ml twice daily was advised. The animal was active post-delivery and recovered without any other complications.



Fig 1: Casting of the animal on same side of torsion and Planck fixed



Fig 2: Appearance of fetus after the roll



Fig 3: One live male kid delivered without any complications

Discussion

Although difficult kidding due to uterine torsion in goats has a lower incidence rate, which is as low as 2%. It is a commonly found entity in cattle and buffalo, sometimes in doe and ewe, and extremely rare in mare, bitch, and sow. this lower

incidence may be due to sub lumbar attachment of mesometrium (Frazer *et al.* 1996)^[5] as compared to sub ilial in cows. In goats, fixing of the fetus was achieved previously by various obstetricians either by putting pressure using both palms (Sharma *et al.*, 2004)^[3] or a hollow iron pipe (Chauhan *et al.*, 2020)^[4] and wooden plank (Sharma *et al.*, 2018, Jayaganthan *et al.*, 2020)^[7, 6]. In this case, a single fetus and a small body of a dam could have contributed to the instability of the fetus and led to the right-side torsion. This plank method is having an edge over the fixing with hands as that may cause unequal force and fix may get disturbed, but Schaffer's method distributes force equally to the fixed fetus. Finally, it can be helpful to the obstetricians, if the owner presents the animal directly and as soon as possible to the nearest veterinary clinics. Thus, we recommend this method for successfully deteriorating uterine torsion in goats.

Conclusion

It was concluded that if a case of uterine torsion is presented early in the veterinary hospital, the successful delivery of live kid is possible by Schaffer's method along with early recovery of goat.

Conflict of Interest: Authors have no conflict of interest in this case/treatment.

Author's Contribution: AB & SKS: Diagnose and treated the case; SKS & MSB: draft and revision of the manuscript.

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