



ISSN: 2456-2912

VET 2024; 9(4): 47-48

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Received: 28-05-2024

Accepted: 03-07-2024

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## Successful management of uterine prolapse after abortion in a goat

**Damini Arya, Rashmi Goswami, Ajay Choudhary, Kamesh Kannaujia, Preeti Gautam, Sawan Kumar and Shiv Prasad**

### Abstract

The case presented here reports the presence of complete uterine prolapse after abortion in caprine species. 4-month pregnant goat (2.5 years of age) aborted and expelled twin immature fetuses and after three hours of which it has shown a prolapsed mass coming out from the vagina along with some of the adhered fetal membranes. The case was presented at TVCC, Pantnagar, and the animal was found to be dull and depressed with reduced feed and water intake. Firstly, the animal was stabilized followed by cleaning the prolapsed mass with potassium permanganate solution. The reduction of mass was made by using ice-packs after which repositioning inside the uterus was done successfully. Although any kind of straining was not observed, still to avoid reoccurrence oxytocin administration was done. Further follow-up therapy was prescribed using antibiotics, anti-inflammatory, antihistaminic and vitamin supplements for three days.

**Keywords:** Abortion, caprine, uterine prolapse

### Introduction

Uterine prolapse is an eversion of the uterus, in which the uterus turns inside out as it passes through the vagina. It is also known as casting of the “wethers” or “casting of calf bed” (Roberts, 1982) [1]. Most frequently, it happens after parturition, although it can also happen up to several hours afterwards. Rarely, it could happen 48–72 hours after delivery. The animal is typically in a recumbent position, though it may sometimes be standing, with the prolapsed uterus hanging down to the level of the hock. The foetal membrane and/or uterine mucus membrane are visible and frequently covered in debris such as blood clots, faeces, straw, etc. According to Sahadev *et al.* (2014) [2], it is a common post-partum issue that primarily affects sheep and cattle but is observed less frequently in goats. Uterine prolapse has reportedly been associated with a number of problems, and haemorrhage, shock, septic arthritis, reduced milk output, infertility, and mortality are a few of them.

Although several contributing variables have been linked, the exact cause of uterine prolapse is unknown (Jackson, 2004) [3]. Poor uterine tone, hormonal imbalance, increased pain-related straining, stretching of the birth canal, excessive traction during dystocia, retention of the placenta, forceful removal of the foetal membranes, and an abundance of oestrogen in the feed are all factors that may increase the risk of prolapse.

### Case history and clinician observation

A 2.5 years old non-descript female goat was presented at TVCC (Teaching Veterinary clinical complex), College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Pantnagar, with the complain of prolapse. The history revealed animal has not completed its gestation and was around 4 months pregnant, expelled dead immature twin fetus last night (around 12 hours ago). And owner noticed the prolapsed mass around 3 hours after parturition, part of placental membrane was still attached with prolapsed mass (Figure 1). The hanging mass was edematous and spoiled with debris. The general appearance of animal was not good, as it was dull and depressed, with body temperature of 101.5°F. Feed and water intake was also reduced since then.



**Fig 1:** Eversion of uterus along with attached cotyledons

### Management and Treatment

The goat was treated with intravenous fluid therapy with DNS to stabilize the animal, vitamin B complex, and broad-spectrum antibiotics to manage secondary bacterial infection. The triple “R” approach was used for management of uterine prolapse. The hanging prolapsed mass was cleaned with potassium permanganate solution in chilled water to remove all the debris, after that ice-packs was used to reduce the swelling, because the inflamed and swollen uterus was difficult to replace inside pelvic cavity. After reduction, the mass was replaced inside the pelvic cavity with gentle pressure with mild lubrication (Figure 2). Lignocaine gel was applied to the prolapsed mass for lubrication as well as for anesthetizing the prolapsed mass (Singh *et al.*, 2020) [4]. It is suggested to avoid the use of fingers forcefully as there may be chances of uterine rupture, use of palm was preferable looking into the present condition. After complete replacement, straining was not observed by animal hence, it was decided not to use any sutures for retention (Figure 3). But just after replacement 5 IU of oxytocin was administered as it increases the uterine tone and will help in easy retention of the prolapsed mass inside the pelvic cavity. For follow-up treatment antibiotics, anti-inflammatory, antihistaminic and vitamin supplements were prescribed for three days.



**Fig 2:** Replacing the uterus



**Fig 3:** Complete reposition of the uterus

### Discussion

Prolapse of the uterus normally occurs during the third stage of parturition after the fetus has been expelled, and the fetal cotyledons may or may not have separated from the maternal caruncles (Noakes *et al.*, 2001) [5]. For the management of prolapse in animals, triple “R” approach is commonly used *i.e.*, ‘Reduction’, ‘Replacement’ and ‘Retention’ of the prolapsed mass. Caudal epidural anaesthesia facilitates the easy repositioning of prolapsed mass by de-sensitizing sensory, motor, autonomic nerves and alleviation of tenesmus (Rai and Prabhakar, 2000) [6]. In present case the animal was not straining much as it was dull and depressed so, epidural anaesthesia was not administered. If the prolapsed uterus is subjected to trauma due to delayed management there might be a possibility of uterine adhesions. Adhesions formed between abdominal cavity and uterus will reduce the expulsive forces required at the time of parturition which will ultimately result into dystocia and such cases will be managed surgically (Khan *et al.*, 2018) [7]. So, it can be concluded that the cases of prolapse can be successfully managed to prevent reoccurrence. Also, the future reproductive efficiency of the animal will not be compromised if less lacerations or injury develop in the prolapsed mass along with prompt veterinary aid.

### Conclusion

Uterine prolapse typically occurs during the third stage of parturition. Effective management involves the triple “R” approach: Reduction, Replacement, and Retention. Caudal epidural anesthesia is beneficial for repositioning the prolapsed uterus by alleviating tenesmus. However, in the present case, anesthesia was not needed as the animal was not straining due to its dullness and depression. Timely management is crucial to prevent trauma and uterine adhesions, which can lead to dystocia requiring surgical intervention. Successful management of prolapse can prevent recurrence and maintain the animal's future reproductive efficiency, provided there is minimal injury to the prolapsed tissue and prompt veterinary care.

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**How to Cite This Article**

Arya D, Goswami R, Choudhary A, Kannaujia K, Gautam P, Kumar S, Prasad S. Successful management of uterine prolapse after abortion in a goat. International Journal of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry. 2024; 9(4): 47-48.

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