Dystocia Due to Perosomus Horridus Monster in a Ewe

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Abstract
An unusual Perosomus horridus monster in a Mecheri ewe and its successful management by cesarean section is discussed.

Key words: Mecheri Ewe, Perosomus Horridus, Monster, Cesarean Section

Introduction
Perosomus horridus is a bovine fetal monster with general ankylosis and muscle contractures, characterized on external examination by a short spine due to marked double S-shaped lateral twisting of the vertebrae (Roberts, 1971). Nanda et al. (1987) and Balasubramanian et al. (1995) reported the occurrence of this monster causing dystocia in buffalo and doe, respectively. In view of the rarity of the perosomus horridus monster in ovines, the present case is reported.

Case History and Clinical Observations
A two and half year old Mecheri ewe on its 3rd gestation was brought to Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Namakkal with the history of dystocia. The labor signs started 5 hours before; the water bag ruptured 2 hours later but was unable to deliver the fetus. The case was attended by a local veterinarian and referred. The general clinical parameters were within the range and the ewe had continuous straining. Vaginal examination revealed a fully dilated cervix and presence of a dead fetus inside the uterus in anterior longitudinal presentation (P1), dorso-sacral position (P2) and downward deviation of head with both the limbs retained beneath the body (P3). The fetal size was slightly larger. The fetal legs were ankylosed and were unable to manipulate per vaginum. Hence the case was tentatively diagnosed as dystocia due to fetal monster.
Treatment and Discussion

Considering the condition of the ewe, it was decided to perform cesarean section to remove the fetus. The cesarean was performed as per the standard procedure. During cesarean section, a dead male fetus weighing 4.6 kgs was removed. It showed bent on the vertebral column and the spine had typical S-shaped twisting. The forelimbs were longer and had ankylosis at knee joint whereas the hind limbs had ankylosis and hock joint. The entire body of the fetus had muscle contracture. All the changes on the fetus indicates that it is a perosomus horridus monster (figure). Postoperatively the ewe was treated with inj. DNS (5%) (500 ml, I/V), inj. Oxytetracycline (200 mg, I/V), inj. Chlorpheniramine maleate (10 mg, I/M), inj. Melonex (10 mg, I/V) and inj. Oxytocin (15 IU, I/V). The antibiotic, antihistamine was continued for three days. The suture removed on 10th day. The animal recovered uneventfully.

Incidence of monstrosities in livestock is of great importance because of genetic transmission of such malformation. Etiology of such monsters is usually unknown but considered to be due to chromosomal defects (Morrow, 1986). Perosomus horridus is formed due to simple autosomal recessive gene. The affected monster fetus is usually carried to term. Such a fully developed monster usually results in dystocia and requires considerable skill to ensure a safe delivery without damage to the dam (Sharma et al., 2001). Cesarean section, without doubt offers a safer method of delivery.

References