Dystocia due to Fetal Anasarca with Micromelia in Murrah Buffalo

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Abstract

Fetal anomalies are the common causes of dystocia in animals. Anasarca is the generalized swelling in body due to excessive fluid retention in the tissues (Bijurkar et al 2004). A fetus with anasarca may be prone to dystocia because the generalized edema and will cause the fetus not to pass through the pelvic canal (Noakes et al 2001). Derangement of fetal circulation /obliteration of fetal lymphatics usually results in anasarca (Purohit et al 2012).

Key words: Dystocia, Murrah buffalo, Fetal anasarca

Case history and clinical observations

A full term pregnant 8year Murrah buffalo was presented with severe straining since 5 hours. Vaginal examination revealed fully dilated cervix. A dead abnormal large edematous fetus in anterior longitudinal position was noticed. Grossly the fetus was classified to be suffering from anasarca. Epidural anaesthesia was administered with 2% lignocaine hydrochloride. Birth canal was thoroughly lubricated. Obstetrical hook was applied to the mandible to the fetus. Multiple incisions were made on the fetus in order to drain the liquid. Rope truss was applied around the neck. Traction was applied and dead fetus was removed. Left forelimb at elbow joint was cut off during traction. Forelimbs and hind limbs are ill developed (micromelia).The fetal membranes were removed completely. Post-operatively the dam was administered with Intaceph @5-10mg/kg and with Melonex @30ml/300kg body weight for 5 days and with fluid therapy for 3 days. Recovery was noticed .Animal returned to the normal intake of feed and water.

The fetal calf was having edema involving the head and body but limbs were not enlarged. Features of head cannot be demarcated due to edema.

Discussion

Fetal anasarca is a rare condition caused by autosomal recessive gene in some breeds; the fetus may be 3 times the normal birth weight with excessive (Philip et al 2011) subcutaneous fluid accumulation causing
dystocia. Noakes et al (2001) stated that fetal anasarca requires multiple incisions to drain liquid which was adopted in this case. Roberts (1986) stated that anasarca is due to disturbance of liquid exchange of placental origin and is associated with autosomal recessive gene and electrolyte imbalance. Similar case of dystocia in buffalo due to micromelia and arthrogypsosis in buffalo was reported by Kumbhar et al (2012).

Summary
A rare case of dystocia due to fetal anasarca relieved without surgical intervention was reported. The case was successfully managed by multiple incisions.

References