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Successful clinical management of mummified foetus in cattle: A case report

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Abstract

An eight-year-old crossbred cow in its third parity was presented to teaching veterinary clinical complex, BVC (BASU), Patna with complaint of prolong gestation of 10 months with normal feed and water intake. Udder and abdomen had increased in size, but the cow did not deliver the foetus even after 300 days of gestation. On the Per-rectal examination revealed that uterine contents were hard and thick, foetus was compact, Firm and immobile mass without placental fluid. Fremitus was also absent. On the ultrasound examination showed the absence of placental fluid or any viable signs of foetus. During per-vaginal examination cervix was closed. The cow was administered single dose of PGF_{2α} analogue Cloprostenol intramuscular as well as manual massage or stimulation of cervix per vaginally three time in a day interval of eight hours. There is some time only use of prostaglandin F_{2α} failure to expel mummified because of incomplete dilation of cervix. After 48 hrs of the Cloprostenol along with massage of cervix per vaginally a long thick brownish mucoid discharge was reported from vulva. Per vaginally, the cervix was fully relaxed, and a bony mass rapped within the placenta was palpated. Traction was applied to take out the dead foetus with using of lubricant. Dead foetus was covered with in dark brown foetal membrane.

Keywords: Mummified foetus, cattle

Introduction

Mummification is uncommon outcomes of foetal death, shrinkage or shrivelling of foetus by absorbing foetal fluid. Mummification of bovine fetuses has an incidence of less than 2% (Barth, 1986) [7]. It observed mainly in cow and sow (Jenkins *et al.*, 1977) [4]. Mummified foetus is a uncommon reproductive disorder which extend the inter-calving period and foetal loss resulting greater economic loss to dairy industry. Mummification of the foetus occurs in cattle of all ages. It is suspected only when gestation period is prolonged. There is persistence of corpus luteum and progesterone level of plasma of cow with a mummified foetus reflect the presence of a functional corpus luteum (Jenkins *et al.*, 1977) [4]. It occurs in both indigenous as well as exotic breeds (Jana and Ghosh, 2014) [3]. Pregnancy remains undisturbed in foetal mummification and foetal signal for induction of parturition remains absent (Kumar *et al.*, 2017) [6].

Case History and Diagnosis

An eight-year-old crossbred cow in its third parity was presented to teaching veterinary clinical complex, BVC (BASU), Patna with complaint of prolong gestation Approximate 10 month with normal feed and water intake. Udder and abdomen had increased in size, but the heifer did not deliver the foetus even after 300 days of gestation. On the Per-rectal examination revealed that uterine contents were hard and thick, foetus was compact, Firm and immobile mass without placental fluid. Fremitus was also absent. On the ultrasound examination showed the absence of placental fluid or any viable signs of foetus. During per-vaginal examination cervix was closed. General appearance and clinical sign including heart rate, pulse rate, respiration rate and temperature of animal was normal. The case was diagnosed as mummified foetus.

Treatment and Discussion

The cow was healthy no emergency; therefore, cow was taken on medicinal therapy to dilate the cervix and facilitate vaginal delivery of the foetus. The cow was administered single dose of PGF₂ α analogue cloprostenol intramuscular as well as manual massage or stimulation of cervix per vaginally three time in a day interval of eight hours. There is some time only use of prostaglandin F₂ α failure to expel mummified foetus (Azizunnesa *et al*, 1970) [2] because of incomplete dialation of cervix. To overcome this type of complication author had personal interest to deliver the foetus with manual massaging of cervix per vaginally. After 48 hrs of the cloprostenol along with massage of cervix per vaginally a long thick brownish mucoid discharge was reported from vulva. Per vaginally, the cervix was fully relaxed, and a bony mass rapped within the placenta was palpated. traction was applied to take out the dead fetus with using of lubricant. Dead foetus was covered with in dark brown foetal membrane.

In foetal mummification foetal fluid reabsorbed and there is presence of chocolate coloured material over the foetus. foetal mummification can take place from 3rd to 8th month of gestation (Arthur *et al*,1996) [1]. The dead foetus wrapped in foetal membrane, the wall of uterus encloses the foetus and foetal membrane and brown chocolate colour stain both dead foetus as well as membrane. In present case also dead foetus wrapped in foetal membrane stain with brownish stain.

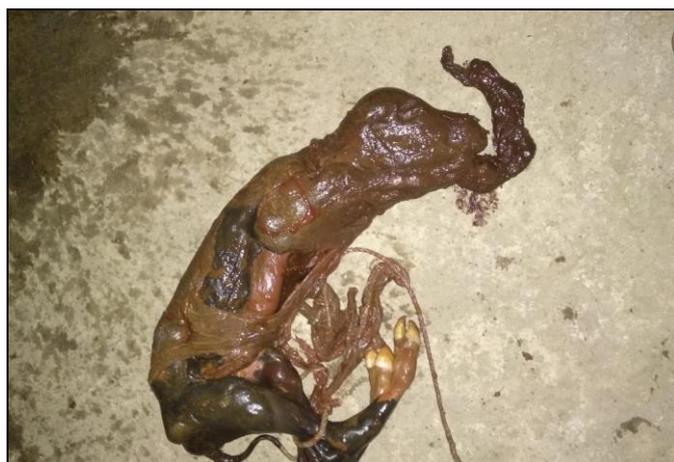


Fig 1: Mummified fetus with dry fetal membrane and leathery skin

Conclusions

Per-vaginal manual massaging/stimulating of cervix along with hormonal therapy, may helping early cervix dilatation.

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