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Therapeutic management of Rectal Prolapse in an Indian Cobra (*Naja naja*)

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Abstract

An Indian Cobra was presented to Veterinary College, Jabalpur (M.P.) by members of Snake Help Line. It was anaesthetized with Lignocaine hydrochloride @ 2 mg/kg body weight intramuscularly. On close examination it was confirmed that the rectum was prolapsed out and prolapsed mass was washed with normal saline with slight pressure for 1 minute and the prolapsed mass reduced smoothly and some surgical tape and gauze was wrapped tightly to stop popping it back out again followed by an intramuscular antibiotic injection Ampicilline @10mg/kg body weight. Soon after the above treatment two sutures on either side were made in order to keep the rectum in place. The snake was kept under observation. The result were quite convincing as there was no report of any recurrence even after 10 days.

Keywords: Ampicilline, Indian Cobra, Lignocaine hydrochloride, Prolapse

Introduction

The Rectal prolapse occurs when the last section of the intestine- the rectum- “pops out” of the anus. The danger then is that the prolapse can dry out, swell and this can be fatal if not treated quickly. Prolapse in snakes is general, however, it not rare but not quite common. In some species like neonate green tree boas, it can be common. There are a few possible reasons for prolapse parasites, dehydration, stress and overfeeding [1].

History

An Indian Cobra was presented to Veterinary College, Jabalpur (M.P.) by members of Snake Help Line. The case history revealed that the snake was rescued from the roadside. After catching it, the members noticed a muscular swelling in its anal region and brought it to the college for treatment. The snake weighed around 5 kg. It was anaesthetized with Lignocaine hydrochloride @ 2 mg/kg body weight intramuscularly (figure 1) [2]. On close examination after 5 minutes, it was confirmed that the rectum was prolapsed out with some fecal material present on the rectal mucosa (figure 2). The prolapsed mass was washed with normal saline and one ice pack was rubbed gently over the mass (figure 3) with slight pressure for 1 minute and the prolapsed mass reduced smoothly (figure 4). After that some surgical tape and gauze was wrapped tightly to stop popping it back out again followed by an intra-muscular antibiotic injection Ampicilline @10mg/kg body weight. Soon after the above treatment two sutures on either side were made in order to keep the rectum in place.



Fig 1: Lignocaine injection given at the



Fig 2: Rectal prolapse in the Cobra



Fig 3: application of ice pack



Fig 4: Complete reduction of prolapse

Result

The snake was kept under observation. The result were quite convincing as there was no report of any recurrence even after 10 days.

Discussion

The Rectal prolapse occurs when the last section of the intestine- the rectum- “pops out” of the anus. There are a few possible reasons for prolapse parasites, dehydration, stress and overfeeding. Prolapse in snakes is general, however, it not rare but not quite common. With reduction of prolapsed mass with two sutures on either side along with an intra-muscular antibiotic injection Ampicilline @10mg/kg body weight the case showed better results no report of any recurrence was found.

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