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Medical management of submandibular abscess in a caprine kid: A case study

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Abstract

A ten day old goat kid was presented with the history of swelling at the neck region since five days. On clinical examination, the temperature, pulse rate, heart rate and respiratory rate were in normal range. A soft swelling was evident at the left neck region. Fine needle aspiration using a 20G needle evidenced collection of pus within the cavity. The contents were then drained. Povidone Iodine solution was applied followed by administration of fluids, antibiotics and anti-histaminics for five days. The animal recovered uneventfully.

Keywords: abscess, kid and fine needle aspiration

Introduction

Various superficial swellings have been recorded in sheep and goats, resulting in low production of milk, meat, hide, and wool, as well as high economic losses (Barwell *et al.*, 2015) [2]. Superficial swellings affecting sheep and goats are commonly abscesses (Barwell *et al.*, 2015) [2], hematomas (Tsioli *et al.*, 2013) [8], hernias (Simsek *et al.*, 2018) [7], cysts (Hakim *et al.*, 2018) [4], urethral diverticula (Bokhari, 2013) [3], and neoplasms (Ahmed and Hassanein, 2012) [1]. The diagnosis of such swellings can be made clinically, based on their consistency upon palpation and their location, and with needle aspiration and biopsy. The present paper describes about the medical management of submandibular abscess in a Caprine kid.

Case history and Observation

A ten day old goat kid was brought to Veterinary Clinical Complex, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Udumalpet, Tamil Nadu with the history of swelling at the neck region past five days. On clinical examination, animal had its vital signs like respiration rate, heart rate, temperature, pulse rate in normal ranges. Conjunctival mucous membrane was pink and moist. Physical examination of the swelling revealed a soft mass palpable at the ventral rami of left mandible (Figure 1a).

Treatment and Discussion

Fine needle aspiration using a 20G needle of the swelling evidenced presence of pus suggestive of abscess. Pus was drained and the pyogenic membrane was flushed with Povidone Iodine solution and the animal was treated symptomatically using Inj. Ringer's Lactate @10ml/kg BW I/V, Inj. Streptopenicillin @10 mg/kg BW I/M, Inj. Chlorpheniramine maleate @ 1 mg/kg BW I/M, Inj. Melonex @ 0.5 mg/Kg BW S/C for three days following which animal recovered uneventfully (Figure 1b).

Abscesses and hematomas are common surgical disorders that are mostly caused by muscular trauma and are deceptively similar. The differential diagnosis of superficial swellings is important, but is challenging for veterinarians, as different types of swellings may have similar clinical features. Case history, physical examination, and exploratory puncture are routinely performed for the diagnosis of superficial swellings in sheep and goats. Their diagnosis is considered an important challenge for veterinarians, given their similarity on physical examinations (Barwell *et al.*, 2015) [2].

In the present case exploratory puncture of the swelling was suggestive of abscess and hence the supportive therapy was carried out to overcome the condition. Since the kid was only ten days old, the condition would have developed due to any accidental puncture wound, obstetrical manipulations during parturition or due to maternal hits. Under field condition, such abscess can be managed by exploratory puncture followed by supportive therapeutics.



Fig 1a



Fig 1b

Fig 1: Ten day old kid with submandibular abscess before (1a) and after treatment (1b)

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