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A Novel 'Swing-rotation' approach for the correction of post-cervical uterine torsion in a doe

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Abstract

A rare case of dystocia due to uterine torsion has been reported in a non-descriptive ewe. A 3 year old full term primiparous ewe with clinical sings of intermittent training for 3 days and it was treated by a local veterinarian 2 days back. On per vaginal examination a 180° right side post cervical uterine torsion was diagnosed. Detorsion was achieved successfully by a novel approach called swing rotation method. After detorsion the cervix was palpable and closed. The animal was treated for termination of pregnancy and after 2 days the animal deliver one dead fetus per vaginally without assistance. Uterine torsion was successfully relieved by Swing rotation method easily in small ruminants was reported in this article.

Keywords: Swing rotation method, uterine torsion, doe

Introduction

Rotation of uterus on its longitudinal axis is most commonly found in large ruminants and occasionally in doe and ewe (Morrow, 1986^[5]; Phogat *et al.*, 2007) ^[7]. In small ruminants maternal dystocia due to uterine torsion is occasional and accounts for 2% of etiological factors. Most torsion occurs during the later phase of first stage or the early phase of second stage of parturition (Roberts, 1971) ^[10]. Uterine torsion is more dangerous to dam as well as fetus, if the intensity of rotation is > 180° (Roberts, 1971) ^[10]. The condition can be successfully managed non-surgically by simple rolling of the dam if the degree of torsion is not severe (Mosdol, 1999) ^[6]. In severe uterine torsion modified Schaffer's detorsion method is applied (Prakash *et al.*, 2014) ^[9], which often leads to uterine rupture and foetal death (Chauhan *et al.* 2018) ^[2]. Hence a new 'Swing-rotation' method was adopted successfully in relieving the post-cervical uterine torsion in a goat and reported.

Case History and Clinical observations

A three year old primiparous full term non-descript doe was presented to Obstetrics Unit of Veterinary Clinical Complex, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Orathanadu, Tamil Nadu with the history of intermittent straining and inappetence for the past 3 days. The temperature was normal, however the pulse and respiratory rate was on the higher side. Gross examination of animal revealed dull and depressed. Per-vaginal gynaecological examination revealed right side twisting of the vaginal folds and unable to palpate the cervix which confirmed the case as right sided post-cervical uterine torsion of more than 180°.

Obstetrical management and discussion

Doe was subjected for 'Swing-rotation' method. A wooden pole of approximately 5-6 feet long and 2- 3 inches diameter was utilised. Both the fore and hind limbs were separately tied together. The wooden pole was inserted beneath the abdomen and thorax in between the tied fore and hind limbs (Fig. 1). Two assistants lifted the pole along with the tied animal with proper support up to the height of 3-4 feet from the ground (Fig. 2), so that the animal was not hurt while rotating. Another two assistants stood on the opposite side of the torsion (left, Fig. 3) and rotated the whole animal around the pole towards the side of the torsion (right, Fig. 4). After a single rotation, partial relieving of torsion could be detected and subjected for another swing-rotation as described earlier. After the second rotation complete detorsion was observed and ensured by normal vaginal cavity and palpable closed cervix. The animal was treated with Inj. Cloprostenol (1 ml, I/M) and Injection Dexamethasone (2.5 ml, I/M) for induction of parturition. After 60 hours of treatment, the animal was reported to this hospital for delivery of the fetus.

The animal delivered one dead male foetus with assistance (Fig. 5). After delivery, the doe was treated with inj. 5% DNS 150ml (I/v), inj. Oxytocin 10 I.U. Inj. Chlorpheniramine maleate 2ml and inj. Endroflacin 150mg intramuscularly given for three days.

The treatment regimens for the uterine torsion include rolling of dam while giving pressure on flank (Dhaliwal *et al.*, 1986)^[3] and caesarean section (Prakash *et al.*, 2018)^[8]. Similarly, uterine torsion was successfully corrected by Schaffer's method (Prakash *et al.*, 2014)^[9] but unsuccessful Ijaz and Talafha (1999)^[4] depending up on the onset of the uterine torsion. The treatment regimens for the uterine torsion include rolling of dam while giving pressure on flank (Dhaliwal *et al.*, 1986)^[3] leads to complications of vaginal tear is common in small ruminants as compared to bovine (Watt, 2014)^[12], evisceration of intestine through vaginal tear (Chauhan *et al.* 2018)^[2] and death of the fetus due to hypoxia (Sloss, and Dufty, 1980)^[11]. In present case, the uterine torsion of 180° was successfully corrected in doe by Swing rotation method. The principle behind in this method is by rotation of the animal on air in same side of the torsion will facilitate the floating uterus will rotate uterus towards its correct position. Hence it is concluded that non-surgical approach i.e. Swing rotation method can be adopted successfully in ewe and it helpful to reduce the complications of treatment of uterine torsion in goats.



Fig 1: Restraining the goat for swing rotation method



Fig 2: Lifting the animal for rotation



Fig 3: Rotating the animal on same side of torsion – from left side



Fig 4: Rotating the animal on same side of torsion – to right side



Fig 5: Delivery of the fetus after detorsion

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