

Dystocia Due to Fetal Ascites in Jersey Crossbred Cow - A Case Report

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Fetal ascites is seen as an occasional cause of dystocia in many species but occurs most often in the cow (Roberts, 1971). Ascites may be caused either by the overproduction or insufficient removal of peritoneal fluid. Ascetic fetus in full term pregnancy may cause dystocia in cows (Rajasundaram *et al.*, 1998 and Krishnakumar *et.al.*, 2012). Hence, a case of dystocia due to foetal ascites in a Jersey cross bred cow is reported.

HISTORY AND OBSERVATIONS

A full term pleuriparous Jersey crossbred cow was presented to the Veterinary College and Research Institute

Teaching Hospital, Namakkal with a history of difficulty in parturition.

The water bags have ruptured 8 hours before and attempts were made to deliver the fetus by a local veterinarian and failed. Vaginal examination revealed that the fully dilated cervix and the fetus was in anterior presentation, dorso-sacral position and extended fore limbs and head protruded through the birth canal. Traction on both the fore limbs did not help to deliver the fetus. Careful examination of the fetus revealed distended abdomen and became wedged in the pelvic inlet and the case was diagnosed as dystocia due to fetal ascites.



Fetus with ascites

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

Epidural analgesia was achieved by injection of 4 ml of 2% lignocaine hydrochloride in to the 1st inter-coccygeal space to abolish straining. An incision was

made through the fetal abdomen with a long obstetrical hook just behind the costal arch over the right lateral wall of the abdomen and about 15 litres of clear

amber colored fetal ascetic fluid was released.

As soon as the fluid was escaped, the dead male fetus was delivered per vaginum by simple traction and the dam recovered uneventfully after intravenous fluid and antibiotic therapy.

The fetus was normal in size with distended abdomen. The fetal abdomen was incised and examined ascetic fluid was watery and yellowish in colour. Both the kidneys were cystic and it could be the reason for the occurrence of ascites in the fetus as described by Roberts (1971). The liver and lung was normal. The rumen was distended syrupy clear fluid.

Dystocia due to fetal ascites is an occasional dropsical condition in any species but most often in cows. A liberal incision made through abdominal wall of fetus with castrating knife (Roberts, 1971) and application of a long obstetrical hook in the umbilicus (Krishnakumar *et.al.*, 2012) were methods to release the ascitic fluid and deliver the fetus. But application of a long obstetrical hook on the abdomen just behind the costal arch was sufficient to release the ascetic fluid as in the present case.

The fetal ascites might due to vascular disturbances in the uterus (Nanda *et al.*, 1991) or obstruction of lymphatics

in the circulation of peritoneal fluid (Sloss and Dufty, 1980) or cystic kidneys with diminished urinary excretion (Jubb and Kennedy, 1970) and or *Brucella abortus* infection (Roberts, 1971).

SUMMARY

Dystocia due to fetal ascites was successfully delivered in a crossbred cow is reported.

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