

DYSTOCIA DUE TO RARE FETAL MONSTER IN A BUFFALO: A CASE REPORT

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This article puts on record a rare case of dystocia due to dicephallus sternopagus tetrabrachius tetrapus fetal monster in a buffalo. An emergency caesarian section was performed to relieve the dystocia.

Keywords: compaq monster, compaq buffalo, *Bubalus bubalis*, compaq dystocia, compaq fetal

INTRODUCTION

Monstrosity is a disturbance of the development that involves sexual organs and cause great distortion of the individual (Vegad, 2007). The monstrosities are associated with either infectious disease or congenital defects (Arthur *et al.*, 2001) and may or may not interfere with birth. Twin monsters are usually characterized duplication of anterior, posterior or both parts of foetal body and are common in ruminants.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATIONS

A full term pregnant bhadawari buffalo

in its third lactation was presented at teaching veterinary clinical complex, Pantnagar with history of delayed 2nd stage of labour and severe expulsive efforts since last 16 to 18 h. Two fetal legs and head were protruding out of vulva but the animal was unable to deliver the calf. Per vaginal examination revealed presence of foetal head and fore limbs in birth canal. After proper lubrication and repulsion, another foetus was found to be attached at the sternal region of former foetus. Hence it was diagnosed as a compaq caase of dystocia due to twin monster. Since uterus was tightly contracted around the uterus, caesarean section was performed immediately.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

The paramedian laparohystrectomy was performed under local infiltration and caudal epidural anesthesia after restraining the animal in lateral recumbency. Uterus was exteriorized and twin foetal monster was removed. Uterus was washed with normal saline and incision was closed in routine manner. The cow was treated with injection Amoxicillin Cloxacillin combination 5 mg/kg b.wt, injection Meloxicam 0.5 mg/ kg b.wt and supportive therapy for 7 days. Fluid therapy

which included Inj. N.S (4 lts.) Inj. DNS (2 lts) was continued for 3 days. The sutures were removed after 10 days. The buffalo made an uneventful recovery and was discharged on 10th day. The monster had two heads, two pairs of fore and hind limbs and was joined at sternal region (Figure 1). All visceral organs were well developed in both foetus except liver and spleen which were under developed in one foetus.

Conjoined or fused symmetrical twins are usually monozygotic in origin and represent incomplete division of one embryo into two components usually at the primitive streak of developmental stage and in the event they may

develop into thoracopagus (Noden and Delahunta, 1985). Conjoined twins may be caused by any number of factors, being influenced by genetic and environmental conditions. It is presently thought that these factors are responsible for the failure of twins to separate after the 13th day after fertilization (Srivastva *et al.*, 2008).

Conjoined twins are always identical twins and of the same sex (Arthur *et al.*, 2001). Such twins are usually due to non-inherited defects and often lead to severe dystocia (Roberts, 2004). Cesarean section is method of choice in such cases and should be performed immediately for delivery of the foetuses. (Sakthivel and Mathew, 2000).



Figure 1. Conjoined twins.

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