

A CASE OF EXTENSIVE RUPTURE OF
 UDDER SUSPENSORY LIGAMENTS (DROPPED UDDER) IN A BUFFALO:
 CLINICAL OBSERVATIONS AND EFFECT OF PALLIATIVE SUPPORT

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ABSTRACT

The present report represents the first case of rupturing of medial suspensory ligaments of udder (dropped udder) in buffalo in Pakistan. Owner observed this condition 10 days after parturition. Rear quarters of udder were extensively dropped down to the level of fetlock joints due to huge swelling. On manipulation the median elastic ligament was found ruptured causing a loose hold for poster part of udder with animal body. Mild bruises were found on udder due to contact with hard ground. The case was diagnosed as rupturing of suspensory ligaments of udder and was recommended for palliative treatment because of poor prognosis of any surgical intervention.

Keywords: *Bubalus bubalis*, buffaloes, dropped udder, medial suspensory ligaments, Pakistan

the productivity. Due to anatomic location, size and shape, the udder has to face different injuries from external sources (Abd-El-Hady, 2015). Rupturing of udder suspensory ligaments is common in goats (Bhagat, 2011) and cattle (Dass *et al.*, 2005) but it is rare in buffaloes. Out of all seven suspensory support of udder, medial elastic ligaments are more elastic and acts as shock absorbers. These have the ability to accommodate any change in the size and shape of udder due to lactation and during old age. From the behind it forms the middle groove of udder. Affected animals have progressive decline in milk production and over all cost value of animal is also decreased. Literature about udder affections of buffalo is very much rare as compare to cattle. The purpose of this article is to describe case of dropped udder in buffalo and effect of supportive treatment used to save the udder from other complications.

INTRODUCTION

Udder health is very important for lactating dairy animals to keep a good production and sustain a better farm economy. Dairy animals are affected by various conditions of udder that affect

CLINICAL PRESENTATION OF CASE

A buffalo was presented at Veterinary Teaching Hospital of Department of Clinical Sciences, University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Sub-campus, Jhang with a complaint

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of sudden drop of udder after 10 days of calving. Animal has been passed her 4th term of parturition. Feed intake was normal but milk production was gradually declining. On clinical examination, huge swelling was observed on the hind quarter of udder. Hind quarters were extensively dropped down to the level of fetlock joints. By digital manipulation, the poster part of median elastic ligament was found ruptured to lose its hold for posterior quarters of udder. Mild regression of parenchymatous tissues of hind udder was also observed. Both the hind teats were directed laterally. Colour and taste of milk was normal. Mild bruising injuries were present on the dropped udder due to contact with hard ground.

On the basis of clinical examination, the case was diagnosed as Rupture medial suspensory ligaments of udder and was recommended for supportive treatment.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Supportive treatment

Animal was restrained in the cattle crush for clinical examination to make decision about the possible supportive treatment. The owner was advised to apply an external support on the dropped udder to prevent them from hanging. A piece of cloth was converted to udder brazier with two holes for placement of teats with in it to facilitate the manual milking. Brazier has three strips which were fixed at the croup part of buffalo. Loose hanging part of udder was lifted up to a normal level after application of brazier. Brazier consisted of two holes through which the teats were passed out to facilitate the manual milking. Clean and soft bedding were advised to save udder from further injuries and contaminations.

RESULTS

Dropped udder was provided with external support for six months after that animal was made for sale. This supportive approach worked very well to avoid the development of complication particularly mastitis. The color and taste of milk remained normal. There was slight decrease in milk production. Animal movement was improved after the use of external support.

DISCUSSION

Buffaloes are being reared to obtained economic benefits interm of production. Small group farming of buffaloes is common in Pakistan. Like other dairy animals buffaloes are also facing some challenges involoving the udder health. Reports about different diseases of udder are uncommon. For the present case of medial elastic ligament rupture. Only one case have been reported in buffalo in India (Prasad *et al.*, 2015). The treatment of this condition is still a big challenge for veterinarian because no sucessful surgical method has been developed so for and only external support is offer to save the animal from developing complications.

The occurance of this condition may be associated with puerperal period and high milk yeild. The rear quarters of udder produced 60% of total production and that is why they are at high risk. In the present case, the udder lost the medial suspensory ligaments support at the level of hind quarter after 10 days of calving. The animal was high yielder which may also support the cause for the development of this condition.

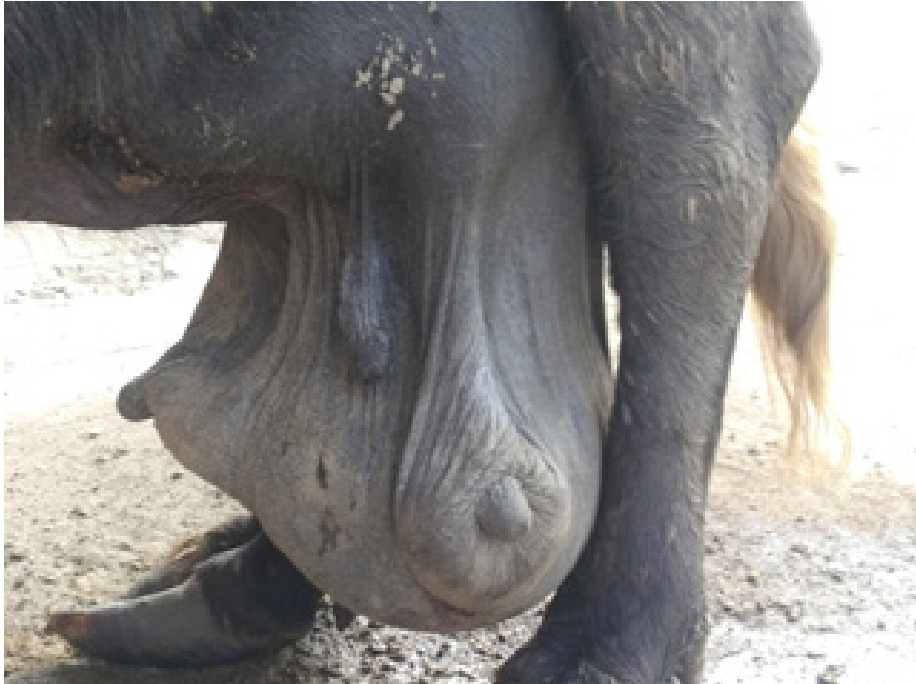


Figure 1. Showing the dropping of udder below the hocks joint and teats of affected quarters are directed laterally.

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