Management of Muzzle Tear in an Ongole Bullock

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Abstract
A 4 year old Ongole bullock was presented with a complaint of tear in the muzzle up to the nasal septum because of excessive traction with nylon nose rope to restrain the animal. Surgical repair of wound performed under local anesthesia resulting in complete healing of wound by the end of 2nd postoperative week.

Key words: Muzzle tear, Ongole bullock

Introduction
Generally, nose injuries are common in cattle compared to buffaloes because of their active nature requires application of more pressure on the nose rope to restrain these animals. Incidence of nose injuries are more in the animals restrained with nylon rope compared to cotton rope (Alam et al, 2010). The present report describes a case of muzzle tear in an Ongole bullock caused by nylon nose rope and its surgical correction.

History
A four year old ongole bullock was presented to the Teaching Veterinary Clinical complex with muzzle tear caused by excessive pulling of nose rope to restrain the animal. Physical examination revealed that the tear was fresh and extending up to the nasal septum (Fig-1).

Treatment
The wound was cleaned with potassium permanganate solution and was prepared for surgical repair of the tear. The bull was sedated with Inj. Xylazine Hcl given @ 0.03mg/Kg bwt, I/M. The muzzle along with nasal septum was desensitized by infraorbital nerve block using 2% lignocaine Hcl on either side. The inner connective tissue portion of the wound was closed with polyglactin (Vicryl) No: 1 and the outer
edges were apposed with silk No: 3 (Fig-2). Inj. Streptopenicillin given @ 10mg/Kg bwt, I/M, O.D for 5 days and Inj. Meloxicam given @ 0.2mg/Kg bwt, I/M O.D for 3 days. The owner was advised to apply muzzle net for a week with regular dressing of the wound with povidone iodine and feeding restricted to gruel only. The wound showed complete healing after 12th post-operative day after which silk sutures were removed. Telephonic follow up revealed that the animal showed normal prehension and uneventful recovery.

Discussion

Application of nose rope is a common practice in large animals to restrain them, especially in draught animals. The nose ropes are applied to exert pressure on the septum of nose which is sensitive part of the animal to create pain, needed to control or restrain the animal (Getty, 1975).

Too tightly applied rope may injure the nasal septum during the normal movements of head or excessive manual twisting and pulling of rope resulting in tear at the lateral margins of nostrils especially on the twisted side (Alam et al, 2010). Coarse texture of nylon rope severe the tissue resulting in to muzzle tear easily compared to cotton rope.

Conclusion

Prognosis is favorable with early surgical correction and controlled muzzle movement as observed in the present case.

References