Correction of Uterine Torsion Using Modified Schaffer’s Method in a Goat

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Abstract

A non-descript doe of fourth parity with the history of straining and unable to deliver the fetus was brought for treatment. On clinical examination, left side post cervical torsion was diagnosed and correction of uterine torsion was done using modified Schaffer’s (Plank on Flank) method. Following correction, one live female kid and two dead male fetuses relieved and the goat had an uneventful recovery.

Key words: Uterine Torsion, Modified Schaffer’s method, Goat

Introduction

Uterine torsion signifies the rotation of uterus on its longitudinal axis, with twisting of anterior vagina (Noakes et al., 2001). In small ruminants maternal dystocia due to uterine torsion is occasional and accounts for 2% of etiological factors (Jackson, 2004). The low incidence of this condition in goats may be due to frequent bicornual pregnancy (Roberts, 1971). In general management procedures employed simple rolling and caesarian section. The present communication records a correction of uterine torsion in a goat by adopting modified Schaffer’s (Plank-on-Flank) method and successful per vaginal delivery.

Case history and Observations

A non-descripts doe at fourth parity with the history of straining since last 10 hours and unable to deliver the fetus was presented to large animal obstetrics unit of Madras Veterinary College Teaching hospital. On physical examination the doe was alert but unable to stand. Temperature, pulse and respiration rates were within physiological limits. Abdominal palpation revealed presence of fetal mass. Pervaginal examination revealed a strong twist (>90°) in the anterior vagina running towards left side and one finger could be passed through the twist. The case was diagnosed as maternal dystocia due to left side post
cervical uterine torsion. Abdominal radiography revealed presence of three fetuses (plate-2). Trans abdominal ultrasound revealed feeble fetal heart beat. Animal was casted on left lateral recumbency with both the forelegs and hind legs tied separately. A wooden plank (75cm×50cm×4cm) was placed over the flank region in order to fix the uterus externally (Plate-1). Then the animal was slowly rolled towards the same side of torsion. Pervaginal examination following one complete rotation revealed persistence of mild twist and hence second rotation was given. After two complete rotations, the dilated cervix with intact water bag could be palpated. After manual rupturing of water bag the first dead male fetus which was in anterior longitudinal presentation (P₁), dorso sacral position (P₂) with extended forelimbs (P₃) was relieved by gentle traction. Second and third fetuses were in breech presentation. Following correction, one dead male fetus and one live female kid were relieved. After delivery, the doe was treated with inj. 5% DNS 200ml (I/v), inj. Oxytocin 10 I.U. Inj. Chlorpheniramine maleate 2ml and inj. Cefotaxime 250mg intramuscularly given for three days.

Treatment and discussion

The low incidence of uterine torsion in goats might be due to difference in the attachment of mesometrium i.e. sublumbar rather than subillial (Fazer et al., 1996). The occurrence of uterine torsion is mainly during early part of second stage of labor or in the late part of the first stage of labor because external os of the cervix was found to be dilated immediately after the torsion was corrected (Noakes et al., 2001). The predisposing causes for uterine torsion might be due to unequal fetal number in uterine horn (Roberts, 1971) or greater athleticism of goat in raising their feet from recumbency. In the present case, three fetuses were present and that might have caused the instability uterus and resulted in torsion of uterus. The treatment regimens for the uterine torsion include rolling of dam while giving pressure on flank (Dhaliwal et al. 1986) and caesarian section (Bansod and Srivastava, 1991). In the present report, modified Schaffer’s technique, which was generally used to relieve torsion in large animals, was attempted with slight modification and able to correct the torsion successfully. Hence it is concluded that
non-surgical approach i.e. modified Schaffer’s method can be adopted successfully in fresh and promptly diagnosed cases of post cervical uterine torsion in goats.

Summary

This paper reports about a non-surgical approach of relieving the post cervical uterine torsion using modified Schaffer’s (Plank on Flank) method in a doe.

References