Dystocia Due to Twinning in a Cross Breed Holstein Frisian Cattle and Its Successful Management

Saraswat Sahoo*, Arpita Padhy and Devender Saran
Department of Veterinary Gynaecology & Obstetrics, Arawali Veterinary College, Sikar – 332001, Rajasthan, (INDIA)

*Corresponding author: saraswat.vet06@gmail.com

Abstract
A case of dystocia due to twin male fetuses in a crossbred cow and their successful delivery by obstetrical maneuver has been discussed.

Key words: Dystocia, twins

Introduction
Dystocia is one of the reproductive problems which cause death in both fetus and sometimes the dams in spite of the trauma and infection due to complication of the case may have adverse effect on future fertility (Hussain and Zaid, 2010). Fetal dystocia occurred mainly due to oversize, mal-disposition, monsters and large sized male fetuses. (Noakes, 2009). Twin and triplet births are common in sheep and goats, but multiple births occur less frequently in uniparous species such as cattle and horses (Josson, 2009). The incidence of twinning is very high (60-70%) in sheep and goat, whereas low in dairy cattle (1.04%) and mare (0.5- 1.05%) (Roberts 1971). Twins may be monozygotic or dizygotic. Dizygotic twin arise due to fertilization of two ova by two separate sperms. Dizygotic are the most common type of twin, may be of the same or different sex and accounts for more than two-thirds of live twin births (Johanson et al., 2001).

Case History and Observation
A six year old cow of third parity with unknown breeding history was presented to the Department of Veterinary Gynaecology and Obstetrics of Arawali Veterinary College, Sikar, Rajasthan for obstetrical assistance. The cow was continuously straining since five hours. The water bag came out within half an hour of initiation of labor. But no fetal parts appeared till 3 hours except some part of fetal membranes that hanged out of vulva. The cow was restless and frequently sitting down. Per-vaginal examination
revealed that the fetus was in the anterior presentation and both the fore limbs were flexed at the knee joint resulting in blockage of the birth canal.

![Image of a cow and two calves](image)

**Fig. 1 - The dam with its twins**

**Treatment and Discussion**

After lubricating the birth passage with liquid paraffin, gentle retropulsion of the fetus towards uterus was carried out. The flexed limbs were extended carefully using the obstetrical hook. Judicious traction was applied to relieve the fetus from the birth canal. Hussain and Zaid (2010) reported that correction and traction of the fetus were the primary safe techniques to relieve dystocia. Finally, after continuous efforts the fetus could be successfully delivered.

It was observed that even after the delivery of the fetus the cow was restless. Per-vaginal examination was again carried out to check the status of uterine milieu. Another full grown fetus in anterior presentation with both fore limbs extended normally was present. The fetus was delivered by normal traction without much difficulty. The recovery of the dam was uneventful after treatment with fluid therapy (Dextrose Normal Saline), antibiotics (Amoxicillin), anti-inflammatory drugs (Ketoprofen) for seven days. Examination of both the fetuses revealed that they were dizygotic male twins. (Fig.1)

Some workers (Singh *et al.*, 2011) have advised for caesarian section in such type of cases, however in the present case, dystocia was caused due to dizygotic male twins and was successfully relieved by normal traction.

**Summary**

A case of dystocia due to twin fetus in a cross bred HF cattle and its successful obstetrical management has been discussed.
References