

## DYSTOCIA DUE TO TWINS IN A HARIANA COW - A CASE REPORT

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### SUMMARY

The present case reports a dystocia due to twins in a Haryana cow caused by impaction of two male fetuses in maternal pelvis which were delivered by caesarean section.

**Key words:** Cow, caesarean, dystocia, twins

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). Twinning is an important non-infectious cause of pregnancy loss in mares and should not occur on well-managed breeding farms and reduction in the incidence of twin births can result in a saving of as much as \$55 million per year (Johanson *et al.*, 2001). 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). The twins were assumed to be dizygotic (Johanson *et al.*, 2001). This type of twinning arises 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 are more than two-thirds of live twin births. The present case report deals with a rare case of dystocia due to twinning in a Haryana cow.

A pluriparous cow of four and a half year age in her third parity was brought to the Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex, College of Veterinary Sciences Hisar. The cow was suffering from dystocia due to wedging of twins in maternal pelvis. At initial stage, straining was prominent and obstetrical manoeuvres were used by a local veterinarian to relieve dystocia. Per-vaginal examination revealed the presence of two heads in anterior longitudinal presentation with more than two forelimbs in the birth canal.

On examination, it was suspected to be a case of monstrosities and hence caesarean section was performed. The animal was prepared for aseptic surgery in lateral recumbency. The incision was given lateral and parallel to milk vein under local anesthesia by using 2% lignocaine hydrochloride (Lox 2% - Neon). Following caesarean section, two individual normal dead fetuses were delivered.

Externally both the fetuses were identical and separated from each other, had two heads, four forelimbs, two pelvises, four hind limbs and two tails (Fig. 1). There was separate placenta for each calf. A suitable post-operative therapy with antiseptic dressing with



Fig 1. Twins in a Haryana cow.

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betadine solution, parenteral administration of antibiotics [Ceftriaxone+Tazobactam-4.5gm (Intacef tazo-Intas Pharmaceuticals)] and analgesics [Meloxicam 30 ml (Melonex-Intas Pharmaceuticals)] was prescribed intramuscularly daily for seven days to prevent secondary bacterial infection and other post operative complications. A limited amount of research has been dedicated to examine the incidence of multiple births in bovine. The dairy cattle are considered to experience a higher frequency of dystocia than those of beef cattle which ranges from 2.5 to 5.8% (Rutledge, 1975). The incidence of dystocia due to conjoint twin has been reported to be higher than that of individual twin (Bugalia *et al.*, 1990). Normal per-vaginal delivery of such type of

twins is difficult due to impaction of fetus in birth canal thereby resulting in dystocia.

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