

UTERINE TORSION IN SHEEP: A CASE REPORT

J. B. PHOGAT¹, S. M. BEHL², UMED SINGH and PREM SINGH²

Department of Animal Reproduction, Gynaecology and Obstetrics
College of Veterinary Sciences, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar -125 004

SUMMARY

An ewe of 4 years age with the history of 15 days over gestation was operated for caesarean section. It was found that entire necrosed uterine mass without any fluid was tightly adhered to the fetus and further exploration revealed a right side pre-cervical uterine torsion. When uterus was incised and fetus was tried to be removed by traction, the whole of the uterus along with fetus detaching from the site of twist came out without any bleeding from the site of detachment. The abdomen was closed and post-operative antibiotic therapy was given to prevent any complication.

Key words: Uterine torsion, sheep

Uterine torsion is the major obstetrical condition of bovines that can be encountered any time during last 3rd stage of gestation but frequently observed during first stage of labour (Pearson, 1971, Jit Singh *et al.*, 1979). However, incidence of this condition is rare in ewes (Arthur *et al.*, 1982). This report discusses a case of uterine torsion in sheep.

A non-descript sheep of 4 years age and in 3rd parity was brought to the clinics of the university, with the history of over gestation about 15 days. Symptoms of impending lambing and abdominal straining were exhibited by the animal but lambing did not progress. Subsequently, gradual reduction in udder and abdomen size along with low appetite was observed by the owner and case was brought to the clinics. The animal was walking normally but was dull. Vaginal examination revealed tightly closed cervix. Thus, to confirm the pregnancy a radiograph was taken which revealed a single fetus.

Caesarean section was performed in lateral recumbency and it was found that entire necrosed uterine mass without any fluid in it, was tightly adhered to the fetus. Further exploration revealed a right side twist of uterine body of about 270° anterior to the cervix confirming it to be a case of pre-cervical uterine torsion. When uterus was incised and fetus was tried to be removed

by traction the whole of the uterus along with fetus detaching from the site of twist came out. There was no bleeding from the site of detachment. The abdomen was closed and post-operative antibiotic and fluid therapy was given to prevent post-operative complications.

The incidence of uterine torsion in sheep is very low and present case could be diagnosed only while performing the caesarean section. Similarly, Pugh (1963) also observed a case of pre-cervical uterine torsion in ewe but it was associated with abomasal torsion and condition could be diagnosed only during post-mortem examination. So, diagnosis of pre-cervical torsion is very difficult in this species even during first stage of labour. However, the cases of post-cervical uterine torsion could easily be diagnosed on vaginal examination by palpating the vaginal folds as reported in goats (Sharma *et al.*, 1992, Pankaj *et al.*, 2002) where condition was corrected and even live fetuses were removed after achieving the detortion by rolling of the dam. Thus, site of torsion plays a great role for the diagnosis and treatment for this obstetrical ailment in sheep and goats.

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¹Corresponding author

²Department of Veterinary Surgery and Radiology

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