

Case Study

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2020.907.321>

Successful Management of Dystocia in Sheep Due to Fetal Causes: Two Different Rare Cases

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Dystocia, Fetal arthrogyrosis, *Schistosomus reflexus*, Sheep

Article Info

Accepted:

22 June 2020

Available Online:

10 July 2020

Two rare cases of *Schistosomus Reflexus* (SR) and Fetal Arthrogyrosis (FA) in ewe were successfully managed by vaginal delivery of a female fetus and fetotomy of a male fetus, respectively.

Introduction

Schistosomus Reflexus is generally reported in cattle (Noakes *et al.*, 2008), but it is rarely observed in sheep (Suthar *et al.*, 2011; Dar *et al.*, 2015) and goats (Kumar *et al.*, 2016; Nain *et al.*, 2019). It is a fatal congenital anomaly, characterized by the incomplete fusion of the abdominal wall results exposure of abdominal

and sometimes thoracic viscera, marked ventral curvature of the spine, limb ankylosis, positioning of the limbs adjacent to the skull and, lung and diaphragm hypoplasia (Laughton *et al.*, 2005).

Arthrogyrosis is unusual fetal causes of dystocia in small ruminants (Bokko *et al.*, 2015). It is a congenital defect characterized

by fixed flexion or rigidity of the one or more joints and wasting of muscles (Khodakaram *et al.*, 2014).

Case history and observations

Case 1: Dystocia due to Schistosomus Reflexus

A full-term pregnant, third parity, non-

descript ewe aged approximately 3 years was attended at the doorstep of a farmer of the Bikaner (State-Rajasthan) with the history of rupture of water bag and straining since last 11 hours.

Clinical examination revealed, normal rectal temperature (102.5 °F) and pulse rate. The visceral organs of the fetus were hanging out (Fig.1.A).

Fig.1 A case of Schistosomus Reflexus; A- Showing visceral presentation of fetus. B- Showing ankylosed foetal limbs, ventral curvature of spine, angulated lumbar region and abdominal wall exposing abdominal viscera in a lamb



Fig.1: A case of Schistosomus Reflexus; A- Showing visceral presentation of fetus. B- Showing ankylosed foetal limbs, ventral curvature of spine, angulated lumbar region and abdominal wall exposing abdominal viscera in a lamb.

Fig.2 A case of Fetal Arthrogryposis showing amputated head and limbs



Fig.2 A case of Fetal Arthrogryposis showing amputated head and limbs.

Treatment and discussion

Case.1

The vaginal passage and uterus were thoroughly lubricated by liquid paraffin. After that, the female foetus was delivered per-vaginum by mild traction with hand on the forelimbs and head along with simultaneous adjustment of the other foetal parts. Further examination revealed the absence of another fetus and laceration in the birth canal and uterus. Afterwards, Two Furea bolus were placed intra-uterine and the ewe was treated with parenteral antibiotic along with supportive therapy.

Morphologically (Fig.1.B), there were

ankylosed foetal limbs, ventral curvature of spine, angulated lumbar region, abdominal wall exposing abdominal viscera, an incomplete diaphragm and hypoplastic lungs. It was diagnosed as a true case of SR. Our observations are supported by Dar *et al.*, (2015) in sheep.

Case.2

The vaginal passage and uterus were thoroughly lubricated by liquid paraffin. The traction attempt was unfruitful due to the stiffness of joints and suspected as fetal anomaly. First, the head of the fetus was pulled out and amputated followed by both the forelimbs one by one and finally delivered the male fetus by traction (Fig.2). Further

examination revealed the absence of another fetus and laceration in the birth canal and uterus. Afterwards, Two Furea bolus were placed intra-uterine and the ewe was treated with parenteral antibiotic along with supportive therapy.

The case was declared as FA because all the four fetlock joints were ankylosed. Occasionally, arthrogryposis is associated with other pathological conditions such as torticollis and kyphosis (Noakes *et al.*, 2008). In our case fetus was without other skeletal pathological conditions. These pathological conditions have been results from a viral infection of the dam during pregnancy (Noakes *et al.*, 2008).

The ewes were normal, observed after seven days of treatment. A number of factors are responsible for congenital defects (Noakes *et al.*, 2008). However, majority of congenital defects are reported to be related to genetic factors (mutations and chromosomal abnormalities), nutritional and infectious agents or the combination of all the listed factors (Plummer, 2004). The congenital abnormal conditions in both cases may be due to genetic factors because other ewes in the flock were normal lambing and there was not history of any disease.

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How to cite this article:

Satish Nain, Satish Kumar, Ana Flávia Bezerra da Silva, Bhartendu and Naveen Chahar. 2020. Successful Management of Dystocia in Sheep Due to Fetal Causes: Two Different Rare Cases. *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci.* 9(07): 2722-2726. doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2020.907.321>