

AN UNUSUAL CASE OF SINGLE HORN UTERINE EVERSION IN A SPITZ BITCH

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A six year old Spitz was presented with the history of sudden eversion of uterine horn from the vulva following normal whelping. The bitch had whelped three healthy puppies in the previous day night with the last pup delivered 4 hours back. The general body condition of the bitch was good and not showing any straining. The prolapsed mass was slightly swollen, congested with no evidence of necrosis. Abdominal palpation and radiography revealed no retained fetus in the uterus. Based on the clinical findings and results of radiography the case was diagnosed as partial uterine prolapse. The prolapsed uterine horn was replaced manually into the abdominal cavity after reducing the size of the uterine horn. In conclusion, manual replacement of prolapsed mass can be adopted as a method of treatment, when there is no apparent lesion of necrosis and laceration.

Keywords: Bitch, Manual replacement, Uterine prolapse.

Uterine prolapse is invagination of one or both uterine horns through the cervix and vagina and it may be unilateral or bilateral (Johnson, 1989). Single horn prolapse is termed partial and prolapse of the both horns is termed as complete (White, 2004). It most commonly occurs as a post-partum complication in ruminants and in other species, but rarely occurs in bitches with an incidence of less than 0.03 per cent (Davidson, 2009). The predisposing factors for the occurrence of uterine prolapse in bitches may be of oversized fetus, uterine atony associated with severe straining, laxity of the uterine ligaments and most probably by the protracted dystocia with completely dilated cervix coupled with severe straining during whelping (Wood, 1986). The most commonly adopted treatment for uterine prolapse in bitch is surgical intervention to prevent the further complications (Payan-Carreira *et al.*, 2012). The present paper puts on record an unusual case of single horn uterine prolapse and its successful manual replacement.

Case history and Observations

A six year old Spitz in its fourth whelping weighing 8 kgs was presented to the Department of Veterinary Gynaecology, NTR College of Veterinary Science, Gannavaram

with the history of sudden protrusion of reddish mass from the vulva. The bitch had whelped three healthy puppies in the previous day night with the last pup delivered 4 hours back, however the placenta of last pup was not expelled. The general body condition of the bitch was good and not showing any straining. The vital parameters were recorded and temperature (101⁰F), pulse (74/min) and respiratory rate (22/min) were within the normal range. Clinical examination of protruded mass was identified as single uterine horn and it was protruding out about 8 cm from the base of the vulva (Fig.1). The mass was slightly edematous, congested with no apparent sign of necrosis and laceration. Abdominal palpation and lateral abdomen radiography revealed no retained fetus in the uterus. Based on the clinical observation and radiographic results, the case was diagnosed as unilateral uterine prolapse with no retained fetus in the uterus.

Treatment and Discussion

Since, the owner was interested in retaining the breeding potential of the dog, it was decided to replace the prolapsed mass of uterine horn per vaginum. The prolapsed uterine horn was cleaned with normal saline followed by application of *POP in spray*[®] (Natural Remedies Private Ltd, Bangalore, India) and ice pack to reduce edema of the

protruded mass. The protruded mass was thoroughly lubricated with obstetrical cream (Sepsonil®) and was gently pushed into the vagina with gloved fingers. The bitch was lifted by holding the hind limbs at elevated level and uterine mass was pushed into the abdominal cavity (Fig.2). The placenta was



Figure 1 Unilateral uterine horn prolapsed

Uterine prolapse is not common in dogs as compared to other species. Most probably it takes places after whelping of all foetuses. The present case also recorded uterine prolapse occurred after expulsion of all fetuses. The most common cause for occurrence of uterine prolapse suggested being inadvertent straining, inappropriate administration of ecbolic drug like oxytocin and calcium gluconate, applying forceps or forceful manual traction of foetuses as also reported by Reichler and Michel (2009). Uterine prolapse condition is not predisposed based on age and breed of dogs, that can be occur in either primiparous or pluriparous and young or adult bitches (Johnson, 1989). Early diagnosis and treatment of uterine prolapse was important as this condition can produce life threatening emergencies in the form of severe bleeding, laceration and necrosis that culminate to death of the bitch. The present case was diagnosed early and attempt was made within three hours of the condition exist. Careful examination of the uterus is very much important in prolapse cases with retained fetus, because continuous straining may lead to rupture of uterus as also mentioned by Payan-Carreira *et al.*, (2012). In the present study before attempting the

found protruding from vagina and was removed with gentle traction. The bitch was administered with intravenous fluids and antibiotics. Antibiotic and anti-inflammatory drugs were continued for four more days. Re-examination after five days revealed uneventful recovery of bitch.



Figure 2 After manual replacement

case, lateral abdomen radiography was done to rule out the presence of retained fetus in the uterus. In the present case, since the prolapsed uterus had no lacerations, necrosis, looked relatively healthy and also the owner wanted to retain the breeding capacity of the bitch it was decided to manually replace the uterus rather than surgical intervention.

It was concluded that, the partial uterine prolapse in bitch might have occurred following inadvertent straining due to retained fetal membranes. Manual replacement of prolapsed uterine mass could be adopted as a treatment option when the uterus is healthy and to retain the breeding capacity of the bitch.

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