EXPULSION OF CONJOINED TWIN MONSTER FETUS IN A MURRAH BUFFALO THROUGH FETOTOMY

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This communication reports a case of dystocia due to a conjoined twin monster fetus with dcephalus sternopagus tetrabrachius tetrapus dicaudatus along with scoliosis and its per- vaginal delivery by fetotomy in a buffalo.

Key words : Congenital defect, Dystocia, Fetotomy, Monster

Dystocia is the most common squeal of fetal monstrosities in bovines (Shukla et al., 2007) while conjoined twin monster is uncommon (Dhami et al., 2000 and Honnappagol et al., 2005). Conjoined twins are mostly monozygotic in origin and may be fused medially at different parts of body and cranial fusion was most common (Roberts, 1971). Conjoined twin is resulted from incomplete subdivision of embryonic axis that occurs at a relatively later phase of development (Ravikumar et al., 2012). Congenital defect present at birth signifies the abnormality of structure or function which may affect a single structure or function, part of system or its structure and function and/or an entire system (Patel et al., 2016).

A pluriparous Murrah buffalo aged about seven years was presented in recumbent condition with history of full term gestation. Animal was in her second stage of parturition as two hind limbs were protruding out along with tail and there was severe straining since last 15 hours without any further progress. Gynaeco-clinical examination revealed fully dilated cervix with monster conjoined twin fetus that fused in the region of sternum and anterior abdomen. Fetus was in posterior longitudinal presentation and dorso-sacral position.

Animal was restrained using low epidural anesthesia (5 mL, 2% Lignocaine hydrochloride). After lubricating the birth canal sufficiently with liquid paraffin, both hind limbs along with pelvis engaged in birth canal were amputated at thoracic region with double barrel Thygeson’s fetotome by using complete threading. Hind limbs of second fetus were brought in the birth canal with obstetrical manipulation and amputated with same manner. By using obstetrical maneuvers and applying long handle eye hook, head and both fore limbs of one fetus manual delivery done. The monster fetus was conjoined twins having two normal heads, two necks, two pairs of fore limbs, two pairs of hind limbs, two trunks attached in the region of sternum.
Expulsion of twin monster fetus in Murrah buffalo

Fig.1. Conjoined twin monster after fetotomy

Fig.2. Lateral curving of spine in one of the conjoined twin
(sternopagus) and anterior abdomen, two tails and two vaginal openings. Such monster was named as diencephalus-sternopagus-tetrabrachius-tetrapus-dicaudatus monster (Fig. 1).

Post-mortem findings revealed fully developed diaphragm, a pair of normal lungs, normal heart, kidneys (underdeveloped in one fetus) and the liver was extensively enlarged with S-shape lateral curved spine in one fetus at the level of lumbo-sacral region (Fig. 2) that may occur due to decreased fetal movements following maternal or fetal neurogenic and myopathic disorders (Iannuzzi et al., 2003 and Ghuman et al., 2009). According to Roberts (1971) fetal monster characterized with lateral curvature of spine is called as Campylorrachis scoliosa and is rarely seen in cattle and swine. Similar findings were reported by several authors (Dhami et al., 2000; Honnappagol et al., 2005; Shukla et al., 2007; Patil et al., 2009; Singh et al., 2013 and Patel et al., 2016).

Majority of literature reviewed for twin monstrocities depicted delivery of monster fetus through C-section while the present report describes delivery of conjoint twin monster per-virginally by adopting fetotomy technique in buffaloes that may be a better alternative to caesarean operation in order to save time, surgical risk to dam, expenses of the farmer and most importantly it requires less post operative care.

REFERENCES


