Introduction

Cyclopia is a rare form of holoprosencephaly and a congenital disorder characterized by the failure of the embryonic prosencephalon to properly divide the orbits of the eye into two cavities. It is most commonly encountered in pig and sheep (Roberts, 1971) but rarely reported in caprine (Kantharaj, 2010) and bovine (Ozcan et al., 2006; Honparkhe et al., 2009). The present case report puts on a record of dystocia attributable to cyclopia monster calf and its successful pervaginal delivery through obstetrical maneuvers in a crossbred heifer.

Case history and observations

A three-year-old crossbred heifer was presented at full term with a history of recurrent straining for the last 9 hours and ruptured water bags. A live fetus was delivered successfully. The calf had a dome shaped head, centrally located orbit with protruding tongue giving it a monkey face like appearance. The calf was unable to stand after its delivery due to ankylosed limbs. The fetus died 8 hours after its successful delivery.

Treatment and Discussion

The fetus was repelled inside the uterus and deviated head was brought to normal position by holding the mandible. The flexed legs were also brought to normal posture manually by holding them at their toes and extending them towards the birth canal. Then moderate traction was applied on both forelimbs and head and a live fetus was delivered successfully. The placenta was removed partially soon after the delivery of the fetus. Thereafter, the animal was administered with Injection, Dextrose normal saline 5% (2 litre I/V), Streptopenclin (5 g, I/M) and Meloxicam (100 mg, I/M). The treatment was continued for 4 days and follow up of the case showed uneventful recovery.

Careful examination of the removed live male fetus revealed severe reduction of facial features; the calf had a single orbit with fused eye balls (instead of one in typical cyclopia (Fig.1). The eyeballs were not covered by eyelids and both the ears were absent. Muzzle and all the skeletal structures
of the nose were absent and the area was covered with skin above the centrally located eye (Fig. 2). The lower jaw was longer than the upper jaw leading to protrusion of tongue from base outside the mouth. The calf had a dome shaped head, centrally located orbit with protruding tongue giving it a monkey face like appearance. The calf was unable to stand after its delivery due to ankylosed limbs. Colostrums was fed to the calf with the help of bottle. The fetus died 8 hours after its successful delivery.

References


All the physical characteristics of the deformed fetus were suggestive of a condition known as cyclopia and classified under teratological defects of embryonic development (Roberts, 1971). Ozcan et al. (2006) reported atypical cyclopia in a brown swiss cross calf with most significant malformations such as the presence of a median orbit like opening that did not contain an eyeball and other defects included brachygnathia superior and arhinia. An unusual case of cyclopia and arhinia monster was also reported in mehsana buffalo (Sutaria et al., 2012). The causes of such fetal monstrosities are not well understood but many substances have been incriminated in their occurrence. In sheep the condition has been reported due to ingestion of Veratrum Califormicum (Binns et al., 1963). Predominantly certain alkaloids including cyclopamine, 2-deoxyjervine and cyclopasine found in some plants especially Veratrum spp. are known to cause cyclopia among other birth defects when consumed during early pregnancy. However, the possible cause of this defect could not be ascertained in the present report.