

### THORACOMELIA IN A LAMB

G. Veeraiah, Manda Srinivas and N. Lakshmi Rani

Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, Veterinary Dispensary, PIPPARA – 534 197  
West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh, INDIA.

Polymelia refers to additional limbs and the condition is further classified based on location as thoracomelia when the duplicated limbs are attached to the thorax, occurrence of these conditions in sheep is very rare (George, 2002). The present communication places on record a case of double thoracomelia in a female lamb.

#### CASE HISTORY AND CLINICAL FINDINGS

Four days old nondescript female lamb was presented to the Veterinary Dispensary with a congenital defect of having two extra limbs arising from the right ventral thorax that were touching the ground in standing position. Clinical examination of the limbs revealed that both the extra limbs had a common stalk and then bifurcated into two that were directed downwards and forwards. The size, shape of the bones and mobility of the joints were normal. These limbs were completely covered with skin. Except for the additional limbs no other abnormality could be grossly detected. The condition was diagnosed as double thoracomelia based on the region of attachment (Fig. 1).

#### DISCUSSION AND OUTCOME

Radiographic evaluation could not be performed due to lack of necessary facilities. The owner was not willing for surgical removal of the additional limbs due to economic considerations as salvage is to be considered rather than treating the condition as opined by Ducharme (2004). The lamb eventually died on the tenth day following admission and the carcass was not available for necropsy as it was disposed. Discomfort, stress and extra weight of the additional limbs and their unusual location might have caused mortality in the present case. A case of double congenital thoracomelia in a Kashmiri Merino lamb attached to the distal end of left scapular region was reported earlier by Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Fazili (1998).



**Fig1: Thoracomelia in a Lamb**

#### REFERENCES

- Ducharme, N. G. (2004) Surgery in Calf Musculo skeletal System. In: “*Farm Animal Surgery*”. Ed: Fubini, S. L. and Ducharme, N. G., Saunders, Philadelphia, USA. pp 485.
- George Saperstein (2002) Congenital Defects and Hereditary Diseases in Sheep. In: “*Large Animal Internal Medicine*”, 3<sup>rd</sup> edn, Ed: Bradford P. Smith, Mosby, Philadelphia, USA. pp 1518.
- Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Fazili (1998) *Indian Vet. J.* **75**: 945 – 946.

□