DYSTOCIA DUE TO SECONDARY UTERINE INERTIA IN A GERMAN SHEPHERD BITCH

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ABSTRACT

A case of dystocia in German Shepherd bitch due to secondary uterine inertia and its treatment with oxytocin is reported.

KEY WORDS: Secondary uterine inertia, Oxytocin, German Shepherd bitch.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATIONS

A German Shepherd primiparous, 58 days pregnant bitch of 1.5 years age was presented in the Veterinary Clinical Complex of the college with the history of straining for last 4 hours. One dead pup was delivered 3 hours earlier. The abdominal contractions ceased thereafter. The bitch was lethargic and off feed since morning.

Pervaginal examination of bitch revealed that the cervix was open and fetus in the water bag was palpable beyond cervix in uterus. Dark greenish vaginal discharge was present. Radiography (Figure 1) confirmed the presence of four dead fetuses in the normal disposition in the uterine horns.

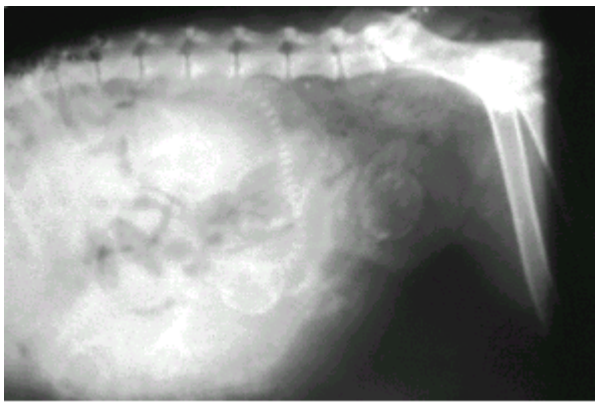

Figure 1: Radiograph of pregnant bitch showing fetuses.

DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

The symptoms and findings viz. an open cervix, absence of faulty disposition of the fetuses and expulsion of a dead fetus 3 hours earlier, clearly indicated that the bitch was suffering from secondary uterine inertia.

An injection of oxytocin- 5 IU was given I/M followed by 5 IU slow I/V in 500 ml of DNS. Second dead fetus was delivered after 15 minutes of the oxytocin injection. Third dead fetus present in the birth canal was extracted out with the help of whelping forceps after 45 minutes. Subsequently, oxytocin (10 IU diluted in 500 ml DNS) was repeated after 30 minutes of delivery of the third pup. Two more dead fetuses were spontaneously delivered within an hour of last oxytocin administration. The routine postoperative procedures included ciprofloxacin (4 mg/kg b.wt.) and meloxicam (0.5 mg/kg b.wt.) administered for 5 days, along with supportive therapy. The recovery was uneventful.

DISCUSSION

Uterine inertia is responsible for 72% of all dystocias in bitches (Walett-Darevelid and Linde-Forsberg, 1994). Uterine inertia developing after the delivery of one or more neonates i.e. secondary inertia, is the most

common cause of dystocia in polytochous & multiparous species. The bitch may give birth to a pup and undergo a prolonged period of rest without showing any signs of whelping (Walett-Darevelid and Linde-Forsberg, 1994), which may respond quickly to intramuscular administration of oxytocin (Freak, 1975). Repetition of oxytocin after every 30 minutes may be beneficial along with calcium gluconate (Morrow, 1986).

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