MULTIPLE CONGENITAL ANOMALIES IN A NEWBORN CALF – A CASE REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

A congenital anomaly is defined as an abnormality of structure or function present at birth. Multiple congenital anomalies often occur because malformation of one part of the body leads directly to malformation of another. A number of different congenital anomalies are known to occur in domestic cattle, and recently several cases of multiple congenital anomalies have been reported in cattle (Lapointe et al., 2000; Agerholm et al., 2001; Duncan et al., 2001). The present paper reports congenital anomalies viz imperforate ani, bifid vulva and ventral hernia in a newborn calf.

Case history and observation:

An apparently healthy day old Jersey crossbred calf was presented to the Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex, Rajiv Gandhi College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences with the history of not passing meconium and swelling on ventral aspect of abdomen since birth. Clinical examination revealed absence of anal opening (Fig-1), bifid vulval orifice (Fig-2) and reducible soft swelling of about 10 cm diameter on ventral aspect of abdomen (Fig-3). The multiple congenital anomalies are rare and hence recorded.

Discussion:

A congenital anomaly is defined as an abnormality of structure or function present at birth. Multiple congenital anomalies often occur together, as an abnormality of one part of the body often leads directly to the malformation of other body parts. This present case is possibly the first occurrence of these anomalies in one animal. The cause of these anomalies may have genetic origin due to the close relationship between the dam and the sire and the negative history for such various tetragenic factors. Many of these anomalies have been associated with genetic factors (transgenes, chromosomes), environmental agents (infections, toxins, fertilization techniques,

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management) or a combination of factors (Jones, 1999; Newman et al., 1999). Correction of atresia ani may not be warranted in animals with severe multiple deformities (Kiliç and Sarierler, 2004).

Fig. 1. Imperforate ani (arrow)

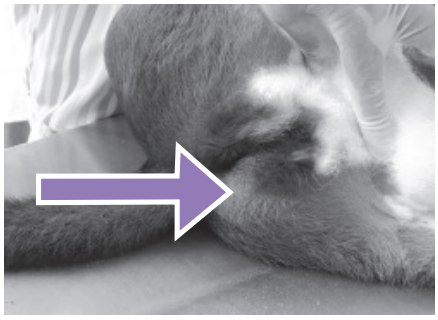

Fig. 2. Ventral hernia

Fig. 3 Bifid vulva (arrows)

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