

Successful Management of Thelitis in a Buffalo Heifer Using Homeopathic Therapy

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Abstract

Thelitis is an inflammation and enlargement of the teat, can pose significant challenges in dairy animals, affecting milk production and overall health. This case report details the successful management of thelitis in a 3-year-old upgraded Murrah buffalo. It delivered a female calf three weeks prior to presentation, with good physical condition. The owner noticed an enlarged right hind teat, prompting immediate veterinary attention. Initial treatment with a tapering dose of prednisolone, antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs failed to yield improvement over three days. Subsequent administration of hyaluronic acid with prednisolone directly to the inflamed teat also proved ineffective, with swelling continued to worsen. Upon consideration of homeopathic treatment, the buffalo received *Arnica montana*, *Phytolacca Berry* and *Bryonia alba* at 30C concentration, 21 drops each daily. Remarkably, the animal started showing signs of improvement during the second week of homeopathic therapy. By the end of the third week, complete recovery was achieved. This case highlights the efficacy of homeopathic treatment in managing thelitis in dairy animals, emphasizing the importance of considering alternative therapies when conventional approaches fail.

Key words: Alternative medicine, Homeopathic therapy, Murrah buffalo, Thelitis

Thelitis, an acute inflammatory condition primarily affecting the teats of first calving buffaloes, poses significant challenges in dairy management. Characterized by hot, painful, and distended teats, the condition often results

in complete obstruction of milk flow, leading to decreased milk production and potential complications (Thilagar *et al.*, 2000). Conventional therapies utilizing antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs have historically fallen short, frequently resulting in non-functional teats and prolonged recovery periods. This introduction sets the stage for understanding the severity and complexity of thelitis in buffaloes, emphasizing the need for effective and alternative treatment modalities to address this condition.

Case History and Observations

A 3-year-old upgraded Murrah buffalo was presented with a chief complaint of an enlarged right hind teat. The buffalo had delivered a female calf three weeks prior to presentation and both the buffalo and the calf were reported to be in good physical condition. The owner noticed the enlargement of the teat and promptly sought veterinary attention. Clinical examination of the udder revealed significantly enlarged and inflamed right hind teat. There were no signs of trauma or injury externally and the surrounding skin appeared intact. Palpation revealed severe pain, warmth and tenderness over the affected teat, with no evident discharge or abnormal odour. Milk production from the affected teat was absent and the buffalo exhibited signs of discomfort during milking and did not allow to touch the right hind teat.

Treatment and Discussion

The treatment was initiated with a tapering dose of prednisolone (@ 15 ml IM on first day) to reduce inflammation, along with broad-spectrum antibiotics (inj. enrofloxacin @ 2.5 mg/kg, IM) to prevent any potential bacterial

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Fig.1 Enlarged and inflamed right hind teat.

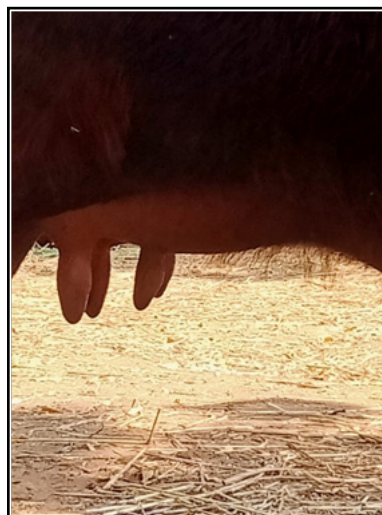


Fig.2 Normal sized right hind teat with milk secretion after successful therapy.

infection. Additionally, anti-histaminic drugs (inj. chlorpheniramine maleate @ 0.5 mg/kg, IM) were administered to alleviate pain and discomfort. Despite this treatment regimen, there was no improvement observed over the course of three days (fig. 1). In light of the lack of response it was decided to administer hyaluronic acid intralesional along with prednisolone to the inflamed right hind teat, aiming to provide additional anti-inflammatory and lubricating effects. However, this intervention also failed to yield any improvement and the swelling of the teat continued to worsen. Considering the persistent nature of the condition and the lack of response to conventional treatments, it was decided to proceed with alternative therapies. Homeopathic treatment was chosen as the next course of action, with *Arnica montana*, *Phytolacca berry* and *Bryonia alba* at 30C concentration (St. George's Homoeopathy, India). Each medicine was administered orally (21 drops) daily. Remarkably, the buffalo began to show signs of improvement during the second week of homeopathic therapy. The swelling and inflammation of the teat gradually subsided and the buffalo appeared to be more comfortable during milking. By the end of the third week, complete recovery was achieved, with the teat returned to its normal size (fig. 2) and milk production resumed to pre-illness levels.

A comparison between traditional veterinary treatments and homeopathic therapy for obstructive thelitis in buffaloes reveals potential effectiveness in both approaches. Conventional treatments typically involve antibiotics, anti-inflammatory drugs and surgical interventions, as demonstrated by Kathirvel and Dharmaceelan (2016). Additionally, studies support the efficacy of intralesional steroids combined with systemic antibiotics and antihistamines (Ramesh Tiwary *et al.*, 2006). However, recent findings suggest that the conventional approach may not always yield promising results. In a current study, the use of antibiotics, anti-inflammatory drugs and intralesional hyaluronic acid with prednisolone did not provide satisfactory outcomes. This could be attributed to factors such as individual variability among buffaloes or the timing of treatment initiation. Varshney (2006) demonstrated successful management of acute thelitis using homeopathic remedies *Arnica* 30C and *Bryonia* 30C, complemented by topical *Bryonia* cream. This approach led to uneventful recovery within a short timeframe of 3-4 days, highlighting the potential efficacy of homeopathy in addressing inflammatory conditions of the teat. On the other hand, homeopathic therapy presents a promising alternative. Homeopathic remedies like *Arnica montana* and *Bryonia alba* are known for their anti-inflammatory properties and offer a holistic approach to managing thelitis.

Conclusion

This case highlights the successful management of thelitis in a first calving dairy buffalo using homeopathic therapy. Despite initial treatment failures with conventional approaches, homeopathy proved to be effective in resolving the inflammation of the teat. This underscores the importance of considering alternative therapies in cases where conventional treatments fail, emphasizing the potential efficacy of homeopathy in veterinary medicine.

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Dystocia in *Muntiacus muntjak* - A case report

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Abstract

Dystocia, or difficult labor, is a critical reproductive challenge in various mammalian species, including the barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*). In this case, a barking deer with a history of dystocia was presented in Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex. The doe, displaying signs of distress and prolonged labor. The forelimb of the fawn was found hanging from the vulva. Vaginal examination revealed a dead fawn with anterior presentation with one fore limb presented in the birth canal. The mal-positioned fetus was extracted out by caesarean section.

Key words : Barking deer; Dystocia. Caeserean section

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Dystocia refers to abnormal or difficult birth (Aiello *et al.*, 2005). Dystocia, commonly attributed to causes such as uterine inertia, insufficient size of the birth canal (maternal factors), or an oversized fetus and also arise from fetal factors like abnormal orientation in the birth canal. The deer family, Cervidae, probably arose from traguloid ancestors in the Oligoceneare polyestrus with each cycle lasting for 14 to 21 days and an estrus lasting for 48 hours (Darlington, 1957). Gestation period is six to seven months. (Morris, 1965).

Case History and Observations

A free- ranging full-term pregnant barking deer, was brought to the Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex at Dr. GC Negi College of Veterinary and