

SUCCESSFUL SURGICAL CORRECTION OF SUBLINGUAL FISTULA IN A SHE BUFFALO

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Case History

A she buffalo of about 10 years was brought to the Civil Veterinary Hospital Dera Ghazi Khan on 13-10-1998. The owner complained that during mastication, regurgitation and drinking, fluid drains out from a raised orifice located at the intermandibular site externally. The animal gradually became weak. Animal was restrained and a thorough examination of the buccal cavity was made. After detailed examination it revealed a complete fistula of about one and half inch present sublingually that passed through the mucosa and reached up to the skin externally. That was forming a buldge that drained the liquid material from the buccal cavity while masticating, drinking or regurgitation processes.

Repair procedure

The animal was given general anesthesia with Xylazine Hcl (Xylaz; Prix pharma) at dose rate of 0.2 mg/kg body weight intra-muscularly following the administration of pre-anaesthetic Acepromazine (Sedastress; Prix Pharma) at dose rate of 0.5 mg/kg body weight. After restraining. The mouth of the animal was opened with the help of a mouth gauge. The tongue was grasped firmly and deviated to one side. The orifice with ulcerated ends was made a fresh, with the help of a scalpel up to the skin level debriding and existing at their undesired material. The chromic catgut No. 2 was utilized for suturing the ends using a continuous technique (Kersyes *et al.* 1985).

Externally, silk thread was used for apposing the wound edges using simple interrupted suture. The animal was given the following therapy to support the healing of wound in the post operation period.

Treatment

Inj. Phenvil (Phenramine maleate 50 mg/ml) I/M.
Inj. Procaine penicillin 40 Lac units I/M for 5 days.
Externally Geokorton spray was applied for 7 days.
The animal was cured within 7 days with out any complication

DISCUSSION

Sublingual fistula is not commonly reported from the field. It not only renders the animal weak but also leads to loss of vital regurgitational material. It also produces hindrance while drinking water. The common cause for this might be wound caused by chuff leading to an ulcer. The condition deteriorated due to non vigilancy of the owner, succeeding into a complete fistula formulation. Treatment with surgery may resolve such problem.

REFERENCE

- Kersjes, A. W., F. Nemeth and L. J. E. Rutgres, 1985.
A color Atlas of Large Animal Surgery. Wolfe Medical Publication Ltd. Utrecht. pp. 12.