

SURGICAL RECTIFICATION OF THREAD ASSOCIATED GLOSSOPTOSIS IN BROWN POTRIGES

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ABSTRACT

Two male brown potriges aged 8-12 months were brought to the outdoor clinic of the Department of Clinical Sciences, Gomal College of Veterinary Sciences, Gomal University, Dera Ismail Khan for the treatment of downward displacement of tongue in the oral cavity. On examination, the tongue alongwith laryngeal apparatus was found present in the lower pharyngeal region. Further examination revealed a tense thread like material transversing along the trachea/oesophagus. Palpation of the crop revealed the same thread like structure present not only in it but also extending on to the distal digestive tract. On the basis of the clinical assessment, a presumptive diagnosis of glossoptosis was made. On ingulviotomy, a thread was found passing from oesophagus through to the next chambers. The thread was cut as high as possible through the crop. The crop wound was closed by simple interrupted approximating sutures pattern, followed by a similar suturing of the skin. Daily antiseptic dressing was carried out by povidone-iodine application on cutaneous wound. The operated birds started taking the normal feed within a period of 12-24 hours. The skin stitches were removed after 7 days.

Key words: Glossoptosis, thread-associated, rectification, brown potriges.

CASE HISTORY

Two male brown potriges aged 8-12 months were brought to the outdoor clinic of the Department of Clinical Sciences, Gomal College of Veterinary Sciences, Gomal University, Dera Ismail Khan at different days during the month of March 2004, for the treatment of bizarre ailment i.e. downward displacement of tongue in the oral cavity. According to the owners, the birds had been suffering from this problem for the last 10-15 days.

CLINICAL EXAMINATION

On preliminary assessment, the tongues of birds were not found located in the oral cavities. However, on closer examination, the tongue alongwith laryngeal apparatus was found present in the lower pharyngeal region. It seemed as if the tongue had been retracted back in the lower pharyngeal region by some thing pulling it down. Further examination revealed a tense thread like material transversing along the trachea/oesophagus. The distress of bird accentuated when the thread was pulled or touched. Palpation of the crop revealed the same thread like structure present not only in it but also extending on to the distal digestive tract

(proventriculus etc). However, the termination point of the thread could not be ascertained. As the birds remained off feed most of the time, the crops were either empty or had only scanty feed contents.

On the basis of the clinical assessment, a presumptive diagnosis of glossoptosis (retraction of the tongue back in pharynx due to a piece of thread wrapped around the base of the tongue) was reached. It was further assumed that when free end of this thread reached in the proventriculus or gizzard, the peristaltic movements started causing further pulling effect on the tongue, hence leading to more agony of the birds.

Surgical rectification

A 1-inch longitudinal incision was made on the skin over the crop region after infiltration of 1 ml of lignocaine (Lignocaine 2% solution, Orient Labs, Lahore) at the site of incision, following which the crop was opened by a similar longitudinal incision (ingulviotomy) and explored (Venugopalan, 1986). The thread was found passing from oesophagus through to the next chambers. Association of the thread with retraction of the tongue was confirmed by pulling the thread per crop and feeling the movement of the tongue and laryngeal apparatus. The thread was then cut as high as possible through the crop. As soon as it was cut, the tongue relaxed and gradually restored back to its

normal anatomical location in the oral cavity. The birds started respiring normally and were significantly relieved. The crop wound was then closed by simple interrupted approximating sutures pattern, using 3/0 chronic catgut, followed by a similar suturing of the skin using a similar gauge surgical silk. Proximal part of the thread was then searched through opened beak of the birds and removed by unwinding the thread from around the base of the tongue.

Post-operative care

The owners were asked to keep the operated birds on neat and clean places where such thread like materials would not be accessible to the birds. Daily antiseptic dressing was carried out by povidone-iodine (Pyodine, Brookes Pharma, Karachi) application on cutaneous wound. The operated birds started taking the normal amount of feed within a period of 12-24 hours. The skin stitches were removed after 7 days.

DISCUSSION

Birds are the most commonly kept non-domesticated in Pakistan and include mainly species of order psittaciformes, passeriformes and galliformes. There are large collections of different species in zoological parks and private bird gardens throughout the country (Athar *et al.*, 1996). Though people try the level best to keep their birds healthy, yet due to their unnatural habitat and sub-optimal managerial

practices, these birds keep on suffering from a variety of medical and surgical maladies (Peckham, 1984). The condition glossoptosis associated with thread is one of such managerial problems of caged birds that can end up catastrophically if not rectified. As far as could be ascertained, this condition has not been reported heretofore in birds at very least in potriges. Owing to the cicatrical squeals of oesophageal surgery, the relieving operation was performed through the dilated portion of the oesophagus i.e. crop (ingulviotomy), as described by Venugopalan (1986), which healed up afterward without any untoward consequences.

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