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Endoscopic evaluation of megaoesophagus in 14 cattle

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Megaoesophagus rarely occurs in ruminants. Cattle brought to Veterinary College and Research Institute hospital for a period of one year were screened for signs of oesophageal disorders. The cattle were subjected to detailed physical examination, haematobiochemical, radiography of oesophagus and oesophagoscopy. The salient clinical signs noticed in cattle with megaoesophagus were regurgitation, salivation and tachypnoea. Stomach tube could be easily passed in to the rumen. Some of the animals also had cough and nasal discharge. Leucocytosis with neutrophilia were appreciated in these animals. Lateral radiograph of cervico-thoracic region in these cattle dilatation showed uniform dilatation of oesophagus on plain radiography, while dilated oesophagus was outlined by barium in contrast radiography. Dilatation of the cervical and/or thoracic oesophageal region was appreciated through endoscope. The dilated oesophagus appeared like a tunnel/cave, with feed and fluid accumulated within the lumen. In some cases, the impression of tracheal rings could be visualized. In many cases, aspiration of fluid/feed material into the trachea resulting in aspiration pneumonia was observed. Biopsy samples of the oesophagus revealed the presence of few intact sarcocysts containing merozoites which caused moderate inflammatory change. There was infiltration of eosinophils with fibrosis of muscular coat. The characteristic muscular hypertrophy was also evident with smooth muscle cells which exhibited more eosinophilic cytoplasm and elongated nuclei. There was moderate hyperplasia of mucosal epithelium. The clinical, haematobiochemical, radiographic and endoscopic changes observed in 14 cattle with megaoesophagus are presented in this article.