CONGENITAL MENINGOCOELE IN A BUFFALO CALF
A CASE REPORT

S. Ayyappan, S. Balasubramanian, A. Subramanian and P. Dhanapalan
Department of Clinics
Madras Veterinary College, Chennai - 7.

Meningocele though reported in ovine, its occurrence in bovines is very rare (Abid et al., 1988), Jubb and Kennedy (1970) reported that morphogenesis of these defects is not simply a problem of defective ossification with secondary protrusion of meninges but instead depends on a primary defect of neural tube leading to focal failure of development of the skeletal encasement.

A 10 day old buffalo calf was presented at the casualty section of Madras Veterinary College with a history of swelling in the cranial region. Since birth the calf was recumbent. Clinical examination revealed a bilobed soft fluctuating swelling attached to the frontal region of the head (Fig 1). Communication could be detected between the mass and the cranial cavity. It was diagnosed as congenital meningocele. A clear watery fluid could be aspirated form the swelling. On the basis of clinical examination the case was declared a poor surgical risk patient. Therefore fluid and supportive therapy was given. Finally the calf succumbed to the condition the next day.

The meningocele varies in size from few to several inches in diameter and mostly associated with suture line, frequently involving frontal region (Leipold et al., 1983). Saperstein et al., (1975) reported that meningocele is commonly associated with other congenital defects like atresia ani, Kyphoscoliosis, agnathia etc. However, in the present case, such defects were not observed.

Sarma et al., (1993) successfully carried out surgical removal of congenital meningocele in a bovine calf. In this case, since the animal was presented in a grave condition, it was found unfit for surgery and the owner was advised on the status of the animal.
Fig 1. Bilobed Soft Fluctuating Swelling attached to the frontal region.
REFERENCES


