Dystocia Due to *Perosomus Elumbis* in a Crossbred Cow

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During fetal development, chromosomal aberration causes varying degrees of structural abnormalities/deformities which may lead to dystocia, still birth or birth of stunted progeny (Leipold and Dennis, 1986; Noakes et al., 2001). *Perosomus elumbis* is a fetal monster characterized by lack of vertebrae and spinal cord caudal to the thoracic region. The monster has a small, flattened, deformed pelvis with strong ankylosis, flexed hind limbs and atrophy of muscles in hind quarters (Son et al., 2008). In view of the rare occurrence of *perosomus elumbis* in cattle, this case is presented.

Case History and Observations

A full term Jersey crossbred cow in its second gestation was brought to the Veterinary College Hospital, Namakkal with history of showing straining from previous day evening but unable to deliver the fetus. The cow was in standing posture and had mild mucus discharge through the vulva. The vulva lips were enlarged and edematous. Per vaginal examination revealed fully dilated cervix with a dead fetus present in uterus in anterior longitudinal presentation, dorso-sacral position and bilateral shoulder flexion. The inability to move the fetal head and limbs indicated ankylosis of all joints of the fetus.

Treatment and Discussion

The perineal region of the cow was washed with 1% potassium permanganate solution and was administered with 3 ml of 2% lignocaine epidurally. Since the birth passage was completely dry around 10 liters of luke warm solution was infused i/v to replace the fetal fluids. The cetrimide cream was applied over the birth passage and fetus for lubrication. The mutation operation to repel the fetus into the uterus for correction of the shoulder flexion failed due to the high rigidity and ankylosis of fetal parts. The long obstetrical eye hook was applied over the right eye of the fetus and by moderate traction the head of the dead fetus was brought up to vulval region and the amputation of the head was done. Then by repulsion, the shoulder flexion in both the forelimbs was corrected. Then the fetus was delivered by applying snares on both the forelimbs and long obstetrical hook in the anal region. The animal was clinically treated with inj. Streptopenicillin (5 gm, i/m), inj. Analgin (20 ml, i/m), inj. Chlorpheniramine maleate (10 ml, i/m) and inj. DNS (3 liters, i/v) and the treatment was continued for two days.

Gross examination of the fetus revealed a small sized fetus with fusion noticed in both lumbar and sacral vertebrae. The pelvic cavity of the fetus was deformed. Both the fore and hind limbs showed ankylosis. The hind limbs had more severe ankylosis than the forelimbs. The muscles of the limbs were atrophied. The scrotum

![Fig. Dystocia due to *perosomus elumbis* in a crossbred cow](image)

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appeared normal and the tail was flaccid. All these observations of the fetus indicated that it was a case of *perosomus elumbsis* as described in Roberts (1971).

The incidence of fetal monstrosities is of great importance in livestock because of their genetic transmission. In the handling of dystocia due to fetal monsters each case is an individual problem. It depends upon the careful examination of the fetus and birth canal, plan of application of obstetrical operations and the duration of dystocia (Roberts, *loc. cit*). Usually the fetal monstrosities causing dystocia require caesarean section for the delivery of the fetus. However in the present case since the size of the fetus was small, it was delivered by combination of fetotomy, mutation and traction operations. The continuous postpartum care might have helped in uneventful recovery of the dam.

**Summary**

Successful delivery of *perosomus elumbsis* fetus by combination of various obstetrical maneuvers in a crossbred cow is reported.

**References**


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**Uterine Torsion and Fetal Maceration in a Crossbred Cow**

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Uterine torsion is twisting or revolution of uterus on its long axis and is a cause for dystocia at early part of second stage or latter part of first stage of parturition. But the torsion of uterus can occur at any time of last stage of pregnancy. Delay in the treatment may lead to fetal death and subsequent complications such as fetal emphysema, maceration, septicemia due to bacterial or viral infection and death of the dam (Brar, 1994 and Roberts, 1971). Das *et al.* (2010) reported that timely diagnosis and correction of the condition is favorable for both the dam as well as the fetus since hypoxia can result from placental separation even in the absence of unruptured membranes. The present report records a case of uterine torsion with fetal maceration in a Jersey crossbred cow.

**Case History and Observations**

A full term pregnant Jersey crossbred cow, calved four times previously was brought to the Veterinary College Hospital, Namakkal with the history that the animal has not delivered the fetus even after completing its gestation period. The cow started straining and mild mucus

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