Trichobezoars Induced Abomasal Impaction in a Mecheri Sheep

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The intraluminal obstruction of gastrointestinal tract of large and small ruminants especially cattle, sheep and goats are commonly caused by bezoars (phytobezoar or trichobezoar). The obstruction due to these foreign bodies leads to indigestion, lack of defecation, development of toxaeemic condition and ultimately death. Many number of hair balls in the rumen, reticulum and abomasums in a goat were recorded by William et al., (2000). A wide range of foreign bodies including bezoars were reported in the gastrointestinal tract of large and small ruminants by Remi-Adewunmi et al., (2004). Phytobezoars have been found to be fatal in bullocks, small ruminants and wild animals (Veeraiah, 2008). The present paper describes a case of abomasal trichobezoars induced impaction in a Mecheri Sheep.

Case History and Observations
A three year old Mecheri ewe in Mecheri Sheep Research Station, Pottaneri was brought by the shepherd with the compliant of decreased appetite, not taking feed/grazing properly and isolated during grazing hours from the flock, weight loss, decreased faecal output, lethargy and apparent depression for past two days. The animal kept under observation, with anorexia not voiding faeces. Absence of defecation, abdominal straining, progressive bloat or abdominal distension distension was noted.

Treatment and Discussion
The sheep was treated symptomatically with antibiotics, antihistamines, anti spasmodic, anti bloat and appetite stimulants. The animal did not respond to the treatments and finally died on the fourth day. Post mortem was carried to find the cause of death. Grossly the animal appeared dehydrated with poor body condition. Rumen and reticulum were impacted with cud. Near pyloric end of abomasums six bezoars of varied sizes (two in large size and other four in medium sizes) blocking the entry to lumen of the intestine were recovered (Fig 1 and Fig 2).

Fig 1. Trichobezoars detected in the abomasum of Mecheri sheep
Fig 2. Trichobezoars recovered in a Mecheri sheep

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Grossly the abomasum was inflamed with oedematous folds leaving erythymatus patches. Daryoush Mohajeri et al., (2012) reported the inflammatory lesions in the abomasums in the slaughtered sheep in the Tabriz abattoir in which abomasal bezoars were recorded. Shakila and Devasena (2000) recovered abomasal trichobezoars from a spotted Deer which was reared on a diet mostly consisting of tamarind leaves without concentrate. Shilpa et al., (2012) reported abomasums trichobezoars in a chinkara maintained on greens, concentrates and ad lib water. In this present report, bezoars were recovered from a sheep which was reared under semi intensive system of management by grazing in the established silvipasture and concentrate supplementation in the evening. In this case the impactions of abomsum lead to anorexia and bloat with subsequent of toxaemia and death. This statement correlated with Mital (2004).

References


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