CAESAREAN SECTION IN A DONKEY (Equus asinus)

T. G. Devanathan, J. Rajasekaran, S. R. Pattaibiranman
P. S. Krishnamurthi, and T. M. Thangaraj

Department of Clinics
Madras Veterinary College, Madras-600 007.

A pluriparous donkey with dystocia was brought to Obstetrical unit of Madras Veterinary College Hospital 12 hours after futile attempts made by local veterinarian to effect vaginal delivery.

On examination, vaginal tract was observed to be oedematous and lacerated. The foetus was in anterior longitudinal presentation, dorso-pubic position with axial rotation of head and right knee flexion. Due to oedematous vaginal passage and impacted foetus neither manual nor forced extraction nor foetotomy could be attempted. Hence it was decided to perform caesarean section.

Surgical treatment:

Ringers lactate with 5 percent dextrose one litre i/v; Dexamethasone 24 mg i/v; and Tetanus toxoid 3000 IU i/m, were given prior to surgery. Mareeac approach for caesarean section as recommended by Vandeplasche (Roberts, 1971) was adopted in this case. The site of incision on left flank was prepared for aseptic surgery. Local infiltration analgesia was induced with 30 ml of 2 percent Xylocaine (Suhrid Geigy) and epidural anaesthesia with 3 ml of 2 percent Xylocaine. An oblique incision of about 20 cm. was made, starting at the middle of the rib and extending caudal and ventral towards the left stifle. The muscles were bluntly dissected. The peritoneum was incised and the uterus was exteriorised. The uterus was opened along its greater curvature and a dead male foetus was removed. The placenta was separated and removed completely.

The incision on the uterus was closed with continuous Lembert’s suture using No. 3 Chromic catgut. Similarly the peritoneum was sutured together with the muscular layer. Streptopenicilllin was applied over the incision. The skin was closed with vertical interrupted mattress suture using silk.

During the first three post-operative days the following treatment was given:

Ringers lactate with 5 percent Dextrose 500 ml i/v.
Oxytetracycline 50 mg—10 ml i/m
Oxytetracycline 2g i/vt
Analgin 10 ml i/m

Chlorphenaramine maleate 100 mg and oxytocin 25 IU were given on the day of operation. The animal made an uneventful recovery and the sutures were removed on the 9th post-operative day.

DISCUSSION

Caesarean section was seldom performed in mares (Sherrod, 1967) and on screening the available literature, no reports on caesarean section in donkeys could be seen. The operation site adopted in case of mare was also found to be suitable for donkeys. Shock, peritonitis, colic and constipation were the complications reported in the mare following caesarean section (Sherrod 1967; Roberts, 1971 and Arthur, 1975). In this case the donkey did not show any of these complications and recovered uneventfully.

SUMMARY

A case of successful caesarean section in a donkey is placed on record.

REFERENCES