

THORACOMELIA, PEROSOMUS ELUMBIS AND HYDRANCEPHALY IN A KID - A CASE REPORT

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Abnormalities present at birth, results from errors arising during development are as numerous as their causes and affect all species of domestic animals. The causes range from genetic to environmental or combination of both. Irrespective of the causes, the defects may affect a single structure or function, involving several body system or combine structural and functional alterations, which consequently result in economic losses by increasing perinatal mortality, decrease maternal productivity and reducing the value of defective animal (Dennis and Leipold, 1979). Several congenital abnormalities recorded in goats. Among which thoracomelia refers to an additional limb attached to thoracic cavity (Veeraiah et al., 2010). Perosomus elumbis is a congenital defect characterized by lack of vertebrae and spinal cord caudal to the thoracic region (Son et al., 2008). Hydrancephaly is a congenital defect characterized by absence of brain and replaced with fluid filled tissue (Kinne, 2007). A rare case of combined congenital abnormalities; thoracomelia, perosomus elumbis and hydrancephaly in a tellicherry kid is reported.

CASE HISTORY AND POSTMORTEM OBSERVATIONS

Two and half years old Tellicherry goat gave birth to a twin in an organized farm. The first born male kid was normal and alive. Second born female kid was dead and had combined congenital abnormalities of thoracomelia, perosomus elumbis and hydrancephaly.



Figure - 1

The body weight of the kid was 2.85 kg. External appearance of the kid revealed normal skin and hair coat. The extra limb was positioned on the right side of the thoracic cavity. All the five limbs were freely movable and there was no attachment with shoulder or pelvic girdle. There was no abnormality in toes and other parts of limbs. Vertebral column was absent from thoracic to coccygeal. Thoracic, abdominal and pelvic cavity contents were directly exposed to the environment. On postmortem absence of cauda equine, narrowed pelvic canal and misshapen ileum were confirmed. However, abnormal development or agenesis was not observed in the respiratory, intestinal and urogenital systems. Dorsal aspect of cranial cavity was found completely open and a fluid filled sac measuring 5.3 cm X 5.8 cm size extruded from the cranial opening. There was no abnormality in

ears, eyes, nose and mouth (figure 1 and 2).

DISCUSSION

The frequency of individual congenital defect vary with factors like breed, geographical area, year, sex, parental age, level of nutrition and environmental factors. Thoracomelia is a very rare occurrence in goats and it was reported in lamb by Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Fazili (1998). Dennis (1975) reported 0.18 % incidence of perosomus elumbis in lambs and it is not an uncommon congenital defect of sheep. Report of perosomus elumbis in kids are not available. Hydrancephaly is also a rare congenital defect observed in the present case .



Figure - 2

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