

Surgical Management of Aural Haematoma in a Goat

A. Kumaresan¹, S. Dharmaceelan and Ramesh Sidhan

Department of Veterinary Surgery and Radiology

Veterinary College and Research Institute

Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS)

Namakkal - 637002 (Tamil Nadu)

Abstract

A goat was presented with history of swollen right ear flap for past five days. Clinical examination revealed soft swelling noticed on concave side of right ear. It was diagnosed as aural haematoma and decided for surgical drainage. The animal was anaesthetized and a triangular incision was made on the concave side of the ear pinna. After draining the serosanguineous fluid, the cavity was thoroughly irrigated with Povidone iodine solution. The pinna was dressed with Povidone iodine along with protective pressure bandage. The bandage was changed once in three days. Post-operatively, Ceftriaxone and Meloxicam were given for five and three days respectively. The animal made an uneventful recovery.

Keywords: Aural haematoma; goat; surgical management

Introduction

Aural haematoma is accumulation of blood in between skin and cartilage of ear, usually appear as fluid filled swelling on concave surface of pinna. In animals, ear infection is one of the common diseases mostly in companion animals and rarely in farm animals. It occurs due to constant shaking and rubbing of ear due to infections like otitis, ectoparasitism, otorrhoea, foreign bodies, hypersensitivity and allergic dermatitis leading to rupture of pinna blood vessels resulting in bleeding within the cartilage layers of auricle and hematoma formation (Ahiwar *et al.*, 2007). It is characterised by fluctuating mass between the concave and convex sides of auricle. Surgical treatment is necessary in most animals because without treatment the auricle will shrivel and subsequent ossification of cartilage causing continuous irritation. The purpose of surgery is to remove the blood clot and compress the layers of auricle together eliminating dead space and avoid recurrence of haematoma. The present paper deals with successful surgical management of extensive aural hematoma in a Tellicherry goat.

History

A four months old male Tellicherry goat was presented with history of swollen right ear flap for past five days. History revealed that goat had developed swelling with subsequent scratching and gradual increase in size of swelling. On physical

examination, soft fluctuating swelling was noticed on inner side of ear having doughy consistency (Fig.1). On needle aspiration, bloody nature of exudates was noticed. It was diagnosed as aural haematoma and decided for surgical treatment.

Treatment

The goat was prepared aseptically for surgery and anaesthetized with Xylazine Hydrochloride @ 0.05 mg/kg and Ketamine Hydrochloride 10 mg/kg b. wt. intramuscularly. Animal was placed in lateral recumbency with affected ear upper side. The haematoma was opened on concave side at most distal aspect. A linear incision was made through both skin and cartilage and serosanguineous fluid was drained completely. With the use of curette, fibroangioblastic tissues, blood clots and fibrin deposits were removed from inner surface of cartilage without causing additional bleeding. The cavity was irrigated thoroughly with 5% Povidone iodine solution. The through and through sutures were applied on either side of incision. Then pinna was totally dressed with wound ointment. A tight protective pressure and absorbent bandage was applied over the ear. Ringers lactate 100 ml was administered (Fig. 2).

Post-operatively, Inj. Intacef^a (Ceftriaxone) 250 mg for five days and Inj. Meloxicam (Melonex^a) @ 0.5 mg/kg b. wt. for three days were administered. Bandage was changed every three days upto the recovery of haematoma occurs. Wound dressed with 5% Povidone iodine solution and Voxeto^a (herbal wound ointment). It was advised to keep the animal

1. Corresponding author.

E-mail: kumaresandr@rediffmail.com

a - Brand of Intas Animal Health, Ahmedabad

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Fig. 1: Pre-operatively



Fig. 2: Post-operatively

in a clean house and not allowed to rub its head. Sutures were removed on fifteenth post-operative day. The animal showed uneventful recovery.

Discussion

Aural hematoma is a common condition in dogs and mostly reported in pendulous ear breeds but rarely observed in ruminants (Tyagi and Singh, 2006). In the present case it was found in a Tellicherry goat. Psoroptes spp. mite infestation in sheep (Bates, 1996) and ear tagging in goats (Clayton, 2009) may lead to development of aural haematoma making the ear distorted and painful. Unnoticed contusion during grazing could be the etiological factor fortifying haematoma formation in present case. Further additional head shaking and scratching resulted in separation of cartilage and extensive haemorrhage. Incisional technique and through and through sutures with silk thread were adopted for surgical management of aural haematoma. Application of protective pressure bandage proved

beneficial for treatment. The anaesthetic procedure adapted was found suitable for surgical intervention. But in our case, no evidence of ectoparasites and otitis, an unnoticeable contusion during grazing could cause aural haematoma.

Conclusion

Successful surgical management of extensive aural haematoma in Tellicherry goat was reported.

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