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Dystocia due to Schistosomus Reflexus in a crossbred Jamnapari goat: A case report

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Abstract

A two-year-old full-term pregnant, nulliparous goat aged 2 years was brought with a history of off-feeding and difficulty in giving birth. A clinical examination showed that the animal was alert, had a crimson vaginal discharge, had a normal heart rate and breathing rate, and had an increased rectal temperature (39.8 °C). Following per-vaginal examination, it was confirmed an monster dead goat kid in the birth canal, with the abdominal viscera exposed had an intestinal loops protruding toward the vagina and a fetal head was palpated in the cervix. The monster, Schistosomus Reflexus goat kid was delivered with moderate manual assistance. DNS (5%), anti-inflammatory, and antihistaminic were used to treat the animal. Eventually the goat recovered without incident.

Keywords: Dystocia, goat, monster, Schistosomus Reflexus

Introduction

The Schistosomus Reflexus (SR) is a deadly and congenital trunk deformity or anomaly. Spinal inversion, exposure of the abdominal viscera due to a ventral abdominal wall fissure, limb ankylosis, limbs positioned next to the skull, lung hypoplasia, irregular liver shape, and fluid-filled rumen are the main characteristics of this condition, which is mostly seen in ruminants. It is most frequently seen in cattle (Jana and Ghosh, 2001) [4] and buffaloes; occasionally in horses and rarely in goats (Hashemnia *et al.*, 2013; Kumar *et al.*, 2016b) [2, 5, 6], sheep, camel, and swine (Roberts, 1971; Irwin and Pulley, 1996) [12, 3]. This case report details the successful per vaginal delivery of a deceased male Schistosomus Reflexus fetus by manual traction.

Case history and observations

A two-year-old full-term pregnant, nulliparous goat aged 2 years was brought with a history of off-feeding and difficulty in giving birth. A clinical examination showed that the animal was alert, had a crimson vaginal discharge, had a normal heart rate and breathing rate, and had an increased rectal temperature (39.9 °C). Following per-vaginal examination, it was confirmed an monster dead goat kid in the birth canal, with the abdominal viscera exposed had an intestinal loops protruding toward the vagina and a fetal head was palpated in the cervix.

Management and Discussion

The animal was held in a right lateral posture. Potassium permanganate (1:1000) was used to clean the perineal area. Following adequate lubrication of the birth canal with liquid paraffin, the gynecological examination was performed under epidural anesthesia (2 ml, 2% lignocaine HCl). During a per vaginal examination, a monstrous fetus that was unable to give birth on its own was palpated inside the uterus. Following that, the abnormal male kid approximately weighed 3 kg was successfully delivered through per vaginal using gentle hand traction on the head and forelimbs as other fetal parts were adjusted at the same time. The kid had hairs all over the body, both ears were normal, and the thoracic-abdominal region appeared to be ruptured, exposing all visceral organs (Fig. 1). The fetus's gross morphological examination showed that the lumbar and thoracic regions were angulated, and the fetal limbs had severe ankylosis (Ravikumar *et al.*, 2013) [11] (Fig. 1). The lungs were atrophied, the diaphragm was incomplete, the thoracic and abdominal area was not fully

developed, and the stomach, intestines, liver, and other congested abdominal viscera protruded from the abdominal cavity (Yadav *et al.*, 2017) ^[17]. The animal was then given injections of DNS (5%) @ 300 ml, I/V, single dose, ceftriaxone sodium @ 10 mg/kg body weight, meloxicam @ 0.5 mg/kg body weight, and chlorpheniramine maleate @ 1-mL intramuscular for three days. Two hours after traction, the placenta was expelled. The animal was normal and healthy one week after giving birth.



Fig 1: Schistosomus Reflexus fetus with exposed abdominal viscera

Schistosoma Reflexus is a widespread, deadly condition that mostly affects ruminants (Roberts, 1998) ^[13]. Schistoma Reflexus is the term for a fetal monster with skeletal abnormalities and a herniation of the abdominal viscera. The exact cause is unknown. Schistosomus Reflexus, however, is a heritable genetic abnormality. According to several accounts, it is mostly caused by the transmission of an autosomal recessive gene that has inadequate penetrance to developing embryos (Laughton *et al.*, 2005) ^[7]. In a goat (Deepak *et al.*, 2023; Modi *et al.*, 2026; Shanmuganathan *et al.*, 2022; Suthar *et al.*, 2011) ^[1, 8, 4, 16] and a cow (Sheetal *et al.*, 2018), dystocia caused by Schistosoma Reflexus was successfully treated vaginally by traction. Obstetrical mutation, fetotomy, or caesarean section can all be used to treat this kind of dystocia (Nain *et al.*, 2019; Noakes *et al.*, 2009) ^[9, 10]. Similar cases have been documented, despite the Schistosomus Reflexus monster being a rare occurrence in goats (Deepak *et al.*, 2023; Modi *et al.*, 2026; Shanmuganathan *et al.*, 2022; Suthar *et al.*, 2011) ^[1, 8, 14, 16]. This study details the effective use of manual traction to treat a goat's dystocia caused by Schistosoma Reflexus fetal monster.

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