SURGICAL MANAGEMENT OF TEAT SPIDER AND TEAT FISTULA IN A DAIRY COW


Ramkrishna Asram Krishi Vighyan Kendra
P.O.- Nimpith Ashram, South 24 Parganas
West Bengal, Pin-743 338

This case report represents a clinical study of 3.5 years of age crossbred Jersey cow presented in cattle farm of RAKVK, Nimpith with the history of leaking milk from left hind teat, physically diagnosed as teat spider along with teat fistula and thereby it’s successful surgical management.

Key words: Teat spider, Teat fistula, Cow, Surgery

In organized dairy farm, affections of teat and udder of cattle is very much common. Early diagnosis and treatment of such problems is very crucial for maintenance of their health vis-a-vis milk production (Singh, 2014). These affections are mainly supernumerary or extra teats, teat fistula, fibrosis of teat canal, teat spider etc. Some anomalies are directly related to teat sphincter like stenosis of teat or ‘hard milker’, enlarged teat orifice or ‘free milker’ and ‘blind teat’. Although, incidence of teat spider and teat fistula both are not very common in dairy animals, this condition needs to be treated urgently not only to prevent milk loss but also to keep the udder health in optimum condition. The present study deals with successful management of teat spider in a dairy cow.

A crossbred Jersey cow of 3.5 years of age was presented in cattle farm of RAKVK, Nimpith with the history of leaking milk from left hind teat in the stage of 1st lactation 3 days post parturition. The animal was otherwise apparently healthy and appetite was normal. There was one supernumerary teat in the right side of the hind quarter. Major complication was leaking of milk from a teat sinus of the hind quarter just near the internal sphincter of udder but no passing of milk through teat canal of left teat of hind quarter. On physical examination, teat was found soft. An unusual ring like structure was felt near the base of affected teat following a sinus like structure and an invagination was also found on exertion of upward pressure with finger.

The condition may be due to some membranous or fibrous tissue blockage in the teat canal. After proper surgical scrubbing and preparation, teat slitter was introduced as well as teat bistouries instrument for clearing those membranous...
or fibrous tissue blockage. After that, drop by drop milk was coming out through the teat canal. Left teat fistula was repaired by two row of vertical mattress suture with non-absorbable material after debridement under local anesthesia using 2% xylocaine hydrochloride around base of teat after dusting the site with gentamicin solution. Inj. Cefotaxime was used @10mg /kg body weight intramuscularly twice daily for 5 days along with intra-mammary infusion of antibiotics. Daily dressing with gentamicin solution was done and siphoning the milk every now and then 2 days interval. Suture was removed 10 days postoperatively.

Teat spider in cattle and buffalo is congenital as well as acquired condition (Johnson, 1988 and Singh et al., 1993). The physical examination was corroborated with the findings of Ather et al. (1999) and confirmed as teat spider. No pain sensation was found during entire surgical process as local anaesthetic technique facilitated surgical repair of the teat and udder (Steiner and Rotz, 2003). After 10 days, animal was totally cured showing normal mammary gland activity and milk ejection. Teat wounds represent the higher acquired teat affections (28.16%) while the supernumerary teat represents the highest congenital teat abnormalities 36.8 % (Singh et al., 1993). Supernumerary teat frequently interferes with milking process and objectionable on show animals without significant effect on milk yield and lactation length. The clinical success from udder and teat surgery depends mostly upon aseptic measures, proper restraint of animal as well as adequate postoperative care (Arnold, 1960). Besides, it was observed that the prevalence of udder and teat affections were more in November, December, January and February, whenever the weather was cold and rainy and stables were muddy (Nouh et al., 2014). In the present study, the case was developed in the month of November.

REFERENCES


