Acute Tympany and Death in a 27 Days Old Calf Caused by Trichobezoar

Saadath Pasha¹, N. G. Amith², Shashi Kumar³

¹Veterinary Officer, Akshayakalpa Farms and Food Pvt. Limited, Tiptur, 572201
²Veterinary Surgeon, Charlie’s Animal Rescue Centre, Mittaganahalli, Bangalore 560064, India
³Chief Executive Officer, Akshayakalpa Farms and Food Pvt. Limited, Tiptur

Abstract: A 27-day old, female Holstein calf was died immediately after the intake of colostrums with acute tympany and hypersalivation. Calf was subjected for post-mortem examination and revealed oval shaped trichobezoar at the pylorus of the stomach.

Keywords: Calf, tympany, trichobezoar

1. Introduction

A bezoar is a mass found trapped in the gastrointestinal tract usually in the stomach. According to its content, there are several types of bezoar, including; lactobezoar, pharmacobezoars, phytobezoars, diospyrobezoar and trichobezoar containing inspissated milk, masses of drugs, indigestible plants, unripe persimmons and hair, respectively (Hasunumaet al., 2011). Trichobezoars were formed after ingestion of hair and were sometimes covered by a deposit of inorganic salts. The surface of hairball was uneven and present as sharp projection.(Mesaric and Modic, 2007). Trichobezoars were round or oval masses that formed by animal licking themselves or each other and one of the other cause was Nutrition with mineral deficiency (Brooks et al., 1984). The calf breast sucking, instead of drinking milk with bottle, was liable to hair ingestion. Particularly in cold climates, due to shaggy hair

2. Materials and Methods

A 27-day old, female Holstein calf was died immediately after the colostrum intake was approximately 4 liters with acute tympany and hypersalivation in akshayakalpadiary farm. A detailed post-mortem examination revealed oval shaped hair ball (fig-1) around 7 cm length at the pylorus and approximately 7-8 liters of frothy milk and small hairs in stomach was (fig-2) noticed.

3. Results and Discussion

Trichobezoars were round masses that they form by animals licking themselves or each other. One of the other causes of the trichobezoar formation was nutrition with mineral deficiency (Brooks et al., 1984). The calf breast sucking, instead of drinking milk with bottle, was liable to hair ingestion. Particularly in cold climates, due to shaggy hair

Figure 1: Post-mortem examination revealed oval shaped trichobezoar

Figure 2: Picture showing 7-8 liters of frothy milk and small hairs mixture in abdomen
coat, licking each other in calves is the main cause of the hair ingestion resulting in the trichobezoar formation (Jelinski et al., 1996). In ruminants they occur in the forestomachs and abomasum. They may obstruct the pylorus, but rarely cause problems in the intestine. They are much lighter then true enteroliths. Bezoars in animals were usually not significant until they completely obstruct the gut. They may act like a ball valve to the opening of a narrow portion of the intestine (Radostit et al., 1990). In present study, necropsy was performed immediately after death of calf. In necropsy, left flank is distended. White frothy discharge in mouth and vaginal bleeding was noticed. The rumen and abomasum were bigger than its normal size. Following the incision of the abomasum, an oval-shaped hairball (7 cm in diameter) occluding to the pylorus of abomasum was encountered. Approximately 7-8 liters of frothy milk and small hairs inside was noticed. Furthermore, consistency of the other bowel segments was soft and there was no other pathological condition encountered in small and large intestines. The parenchyma organs (liver, kidney and spleen) of the abdomen had not any abnormality, as well. In milk feeding calves there are several vices like licking, sucking, tail biting, sucking the rudimentary teats, soil eating etc due the mineral deficiency (Brooks et al., 1984). Inakshayakalpa heifer unit, group feeding of calves in buckets was practiced. The calves had vice to lick the mouth and milk coated cheek of other calves immediately after feeding milk. So many hairs enter into the rumen and abomasums due to the mineral deficiency (Brookset al., 1984). 

Hairballs were accumulating each other and form the trichobezoar. Day by day the size of trichboezaar is increase after few days that trichobezoar was completely blocked the pylorus of abomasum. (Mesaric and Modic, 2007). Digesta was not passed to the intestine; intestines are empty and filled with hair. Calf drink the milk unable to pass through the pyloric splinter of abomasum blocked due to trichobezoar. Milk is left over in abomasum and rumen mixed with hairs develop acute frothy bloat.

4. Conclusion

Calf required balanced nutrition in diet and deficiency of the nutrition i.e. mainly vitamins and minerals causes vices and in turn leads formation of Trichobezoars. Finally affects the calf life and economic status of farmer.

References


Author Profile

Dr. Saadath Pasha completed his B.V.Sc in Veterinary college, Hassan. Working as Veterinary officer in Akshayakalpa Farms and Food Pvt. Limited, Tiptur. Presently joined to M.V.Sc in Veterinary Animal Nutrition at veterinary college, Hassan. His area of interest is Dairy animal management and nutrition.

Dr. Amith N G completed his B.V.Sc from veterinary college Hassan in 2014 and M.V.Sc in Veterinary Surgery and Radiology from Veterinary College Bangalore, KAFUS, Bidar in 2016 Presently working as veterinary surgeon in Charlie’s animal Rescue Centre, mittaganahalli, Bangalore and His area of interest is Veterinary soft tissue surgery and orthopedics.

Mr. Shashi Kumar Completed his B.E in Computer Science in Bangalore university. Worked as lead IT Architect at Wipro limited. Presently serving as Chief executive officer in Akshayakalpa Farms and Food Pvt. Limited, Tiptur. Karnataka. His area of interest is Organic Dairy Farming and Marketing.