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## Dystocia due to pre-cervical uterine torsion in a Nellore brown ewe

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#### Abstract

Nellore brown sheep in its third parity was presented with the complaint of completed full term gestation but no showing any signs of lambing since two days. Bimanual abdominal palpation revealed presence of fetus. On per-vaginal examination, right side pre-cervical uterine torsion was observed. All the vital parameters were within the physiological range. Correction of uterine torsion was done using modified Schaffer's method. Following correction, one dead male lamb relieved through mutational operations. Ewe had an uneventful recovery after treatment.

**Keywords:** Dystocia uterine torsion modified Schaffer's method and Nellore brown sheep

#### Introduction

Uterine torsion is defined as rotation of gravid uterus on its long axis. It occurs during the second stage of labor or early first stage of labor [1]. It is one of the most common causes of the obstetrical problems which is commonly observed in buffalo and cattle. In sheep and goat this condition occurs rarely [2]. The incidence of uterine torsion in sheep was around 4.4% [3]. The modified Schaffer's method of treating uterine torsion is routinely attempted in cattle; however, its application is rarely reported in sheep. In the present manuscript recorded a successful treatment of pre-cervical uterine torsion in a Nellore brown ewe.

#### Case History and Clinical Observations

A Nellore brown ewe of four years age and in third parity was brought to the Department of Veterinary Clinical Complex, College of Veterinary Science, Proddatur with a complaint of completed full term gestation but not yet lambing. Owner reported that the ewe not showing any signs of lambing. On general clinical examination, animal was active and alert. All the vital parameters were within the physiological range. Bimanual abdominal palpation revealed presence of fetus. On per-vaginal examination, cervix was palpable followed by external os dilated one finger. Torsion was observed in the cranial parts of the cervix. Twisting was observed towards right side.

#### Diagnosis and treatment

The case was diagnosed as a right side pre-cervical uterine torsion. The caudal epidural anesthesia (2 ml, 2% lignocaine hydrochloride) was administered and the animal was casted on the right lateral recumbence and limbs secured separately [4]. Detorsion was achieved by modified Schaffer's method using a small wooden plank. Plank was placed on the left flank region one end on the ground, the other end pressured against abdomen with hand to fix the fetus in position inside the abdominal cavity and the ewe was rolled towards right side by maintaining the pressure on the plank (Fig.1.). Two successful rollings, torsion was relieved evidenced by appearance of allantoidic sac through the vulva. The dead fetus in anterior longitudinal presentation, dorso- pubic position with extended fore limbs was delivered by applying simple traction. The animal was treated with DNS 250 mL slow I/V, enrofloxacin 1.5 mL I/M, Meloxicam 2 mL I/M, advised to continue the treatment for three days. Ewe had an uneventful recovery.

#### Discussion

Torsion of uterus is a complication of early part of the second stage of labor or latter part of the first stage of labor and it is most commonly observed in buffaloes and dairy cows. In sheep

and goat this condition is reported occasionally [2]. The major cause for uterine torsion is instability between horns during pregnancy [5]. It might be also be associated with the presence of fetus in the right horn and non-functional left horn. This condition also predisposed by the presence of single fetus in the uterine horn associated with the movement of the animals. The reported treatment regimens for uterine torsion in sheep and goat include rolling of dam after stabilizing vagina, rolling of dam while giving pressure on flank and caesarean section [6-9]. Moreover, successful detorsion by modified Schaffer's method followed by vaginal delivery of a live fetus was also reported [10-12]. This method helped for relieving the torsion followed by delivery of the fetus. With the proper post lambing care the ewe recovered uneventfully.



**Fig 1:** Detorsion was done by modified Schaffer's method



**Fig 2:** Appearance of water bag



**Fig 3:** Male dead lamb

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