

Uterine Torsion

التواء الرحم

Uterine torsion means the rotation of the uterus around its longitudinal axes leading to closure of the soft birth way. Buffalo and cattle are considered to be the most affected animals (80% of detected cases).

Etiology:

1. The bad fixation of the pregnant uterus.
2. Adhesion between the fetal membranes.
3. Strong fetal movements in the late stage of pregnancy.
4. Up and down hill.
5. A vigorous movement (slipping, sudden falling).

Clinical signs:

1. The animal shows colicky pain, arching back, straining and kicking the abdomen.
2. Some farmers think that a simple case of digestive disorder, but if you know that the animal is pregnant (above 8 months), you must think about torsion.
3. The symptoms get disappeared after few days and the animal will suffer only from anorexia.

Direction of torsion:

1. Clockwise: at the right side.
2. Contra clockwise: at the left side.

Diagnosis:

Diagnosis the direction of torsion is of utmost importance for further handling and dealing with the case.

- **Rectal examination:**

In right uterine torsion: the greater curvature of the pregnant uterus is turned totally to the right side, stretching the left broad ligament with it.

A gap of space should be felt on the right side between the right broad ligament and the turned uterus. Most cases of uterine torsion (90%) are to the right side. In left uterine torsion; we find the reverse.

- **Vaginal examination:**

The vaginal takes a cone shape in which the apex is directed cranially, while the base found posterior. The vaginal membrane has been twisted towards the side of torsion.

Degree of torsion:

- ✓ Less degree (90°): in which we can pass 2-3 fingers through the cervix.
- ✓ Moderate degree (180°).
- ✓ High degree (270°): cannot reach to the cervix.
- ✓ Sever degree (360°)

What happens to the fetus as a result of torsion?

1. Fetal membranes may be ruptured.
2. Fetus may remain alive.
3. If the case is neglected the fetus will undergoes death, become emphysematous or mummified.

Pathogenesis:

The twisting of the uterus makes a pressure on the middle uterine vein which results in disturbances in the venous circulation and increase the co2 tension in the fetal blood.

As a result of this; the fetus makes vigorous movements and this aggravate the condition and causes the uterus to be turned more to a sever degree. This presses upon the middle uterine artery and decreases the o2 going to the fetus. If this case is neglected, the fetus will die and may undergo emphysematous or mummification.

Handling of the case:

After diagnosis the direction of torsion and getting sure fits direction (through rectal and vaginal examination).

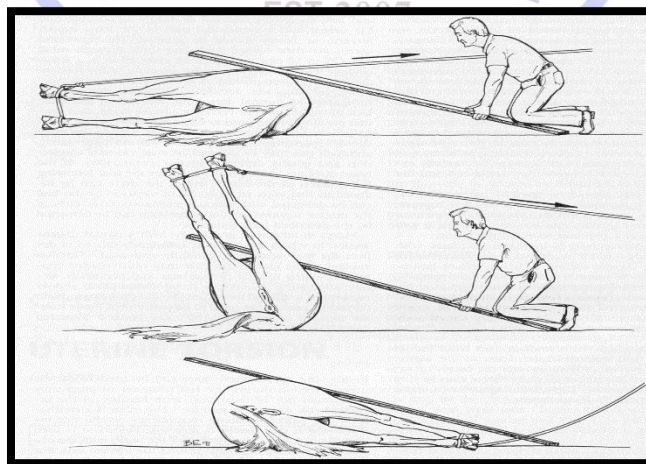
1. Schaffer's method (slow rolling and fixation by the plank):

- ✓ The animal is laid on the head of the animal; a wooden plank is fixed on the upper flank region of the animal.
- ✓ Two medium weight persons stand on the plank to fix the uterus while the animal is very slowly turned to the other side.
- ✓ The animal is rolled slowly for efficient correction of torsion. Torsion is corrected, cervix already dilated and fetal fluids start to escape.
- ✓ Fixation of fetal parts and traction fetus has pulled out and now we are removing the placenta.

2. Caesarian section:

The same steps as the routine C.S. with taking in considered that:

After incision the abdominal wall; the uterus must be corrected to its normal position. If not possible; we try to grasp part of the uterus outside the abdominal incision and two or three surgical towels are inserted between the uterus and the abdominal incision to guard against pollution of the peritoneum from the uterine contents



SCHAFFER'S METHOD

