UMBILICAL HERNIA WITH INCARCERATION OF THE ABOMASUM IN CALVES IMPROVED CHANCES OF SURVIVAL DUE TO TWO STEP THERAPY

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Typical clinical and laboratory findings and clinical management of a calf with umbilical hernia with incarceration of the abomasum are described. The main clinical findings of the approximately four months old male Simmental included moderate dehydration and circulatory disturbances and a considerable bilateral abdominal distension, including protrusion of the left paralumbar fossa. No firm contents were detected in the bloated rumen. Percussion and succussion with simultaneous auscultation produced clear pings and splashing sounds over a large area of the left side of the abdomen and merely gurgling sounds on the right side. The fist-sized mass in the umbilical area was not sensitive to pressure and not warmer than usual. The consistency was noticeably firm-doughy and not reducible in the standing animal. Clinical pathology showed severe hypochloraeemic metabolic alkalosis and moderate dehydration. A highly increased concentration of chloride in the ruminal fluid indicated abomasoruminal reflux. On the basis of the suspected diagnosis (umbilical hernia with incarceration of the abomasum) THE CALF was brought in lateral recumbency and the contents of the hernia were reduced with considerable force which is not recommended to apply for example in hernias with incarceration of small intestines. The now detectable hernial opening was approximately 6 cm in diameter. In order to prevent recurrence of abomasal incarceration and to gain time for abdominal emptying, especially for the rumen to regain physiological stratification of its contents, a tamponade of the inverted hernial sac with multiple layers of cotton wool was applied. The tamponade was left over night and THE CALF recovered under fluid therapy. The following day the general condition was good and the abdominal shape normal, as were the blood values. The subsequent umbilical surgery went without any complications and THE CALF recovered completely. The technique of the tamponade of the umbilical sac and its advantages compared to an immediate surgery are discussed as well as the major differences to patients with incarceration of the small intestines in an umbilical hernia.

Keywords: Calf, umbilical hernia, incarceration of the abomasum, cotton wool tamponade