CONSERVATIVE TREATMENT OF LEFT-SIDE DISPALCEMENT OF THE ABOMASUM (LDA) WITH ROLLING TECHNIQUE AND ORAL ELECTROLYTE THERAPY

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Objective: Analyze of our ambulatory records showed significantly increased prevalence of LDA (2000 = 0.9%, 2008 = 2.7%), especially in cows after first parturition. Because surgery technique is costly the majority of farmers resorted to the treatment with rolling technique and oral electrolyte therapy.

Methodology: During 2007 - 2008 we treated 83 cows with LDA in field conditions. The diagnosis was made on the basis of clinical examination. Cow was cast on its right side, rolling on her back, massaging the anterior part of the abdomen from left to right for a few minutes and finally rolled to left flank. When the cow was let up she got via a stomach tube electrolyte infusion (50 L water with 2x125 g Isopharm bioketosan® ALVETRA&WERFFT AG). In case that abomasum in 7 days after rolling was again dislocated the cow was operated or slaughtered.

Results: LDA was clinically confirmed with following symptoms: the cow stopped eating concentrate, feed intake < 50% of normal, milk yield below normal, lying down on right side, rumen rate decreased, rumen sounds present but muffled, faeces scant and pasty, mild dehydration, ping effect over left abdomen. With our technique we successfully treated 48 (58%) cows. After conservative therapy (n = 83), 29 cows were operated due to LDA relapse and 6 (7.2%) were slaughtered because LDA associated with LAMENESS. We established that 38 (45.8%) cows were LDA affected after first parturition and 45 (54.2%) after the 2nd or more.

Conclusion: On the basis of our observation and clinical experiences we are of the opinion that the majority of cows with LDA are lying down on the right side. Thus the pain is avoided as well as the pressure on the left side, as the distending abomasum protrudes in deep dorsal paralumbar fossa. With progressing dislocation the omasum, reticulum, and liver are also rotated to varying degrees. Via the application of large quantities of water the dehydration is prevented and the size and heaviness of rumen are increased; thus the repositioned abomasum has less chance for repeated dislocation. We also believe that the prognosis for recovering is good if the cow lies down on its left side and starts eating immediately after rolling and oral therapy. This is good a sign that abomasum is pushed into its physiological position. The results of our study showed that rolling with oral electrolyte therapy is the appropriate method if costs of treatment do not permit more effective methods.