On 3 Nov 2005 at 14:39, Claudia Jimenez wrote:

I had an interesting case that I am reviewing again with my students and I have no answer to some of their questions.

A mare that foaled 12 hours earlier was referred due to a mild colic and retained placenta.

After examination, there was no placenta and I found a structure in the vestibulum that I thought was a prolapsed cervix. Finally I could expose most of the structure outside the vulva as you see in the pictures. The mare had also a very enlarged bladder that I thought was part of the reason for the colic. A foley catheter placed in the bladder relieved that tension, but she also was hipocalcemic and that also explained the increase in heart rate. We performed a caslik and gave her support therapy including calcium, TMS, flunixin. A couple of days later she had reduced almost to normal size the sphincter and was perfectly normal. According to the handlers the foaling was uneventful with no help.

A must admit that my first impression was that the cervix was prolapsed, but I have no reference of happening this in a mare (just the cervix).

Is this prolapse common? has anyone have a reference of cervical prolapse or the VV-sphincter in mares? How can the sphincter get so enlarged?

Thanks

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Hi All:

Fernando Riera published a paper on a case we saw at New Bolton Center (JAVMA 195;1393-1394, 1989); a maiden mare presented for a mass protruding from the vulva, looking very similar to the current case. The mare was donated and euthanized; the protrusion was not the cervix itself but a mass arising from the wall of the cervix. Histology showed that it was connective tissue with apparently normal cervical epithelium, with some endometrial type glands (as if from the cervical/endometrial junction). The mare was 5 years old and the mass had never been seen before the day she presented. It didn't seem to bother her at all.

Katrin
Hello Claudia,

Firstly, what you see here is extremely rare. I put one of the images through a couple of filters (and re-attached it) and the structure is easier to interpret now. This looks very much like the cervix to me as well, resembling some I've seen on the postmortem table on excised tracts. The longitudinal folds and soft, undulating, continuous perimeter also suggest very strongly that this is the cervix. Perhaps obviously, it is very unusual to see it this far caudal after foaling, unless a hematoma was pushing it caudally or the uterus was on the verge of prolapsing. The hypercalcemia you mention may support the latter possibility. This is also supported by the fact that it was found to be normal (I believe you mean the cervix was normal?) several days later. A hematoma would never resolve that fast.

It is true that the vestibulo- vaginal seal (really just the remnants of the hymen) can be damaged during foaling but that usually is in the form of an asymmetrical tear or hematoma. It usually does not look like this and it certainly would not resolve within a day or two.

You ask how the "sphincter" could get so enlarged. I guess that becomes a moot point when one considers that this is most likely the cervix and not the vestibulo- vaginal seal (sphincter).

Neat images Claudia. Please can I add this one to the ACT library and use it for teaching?

Yours sincerely,

Rob L.

I've seen mares with varicose veins in the vagina that looked kind of like this.

Richard

Great pictures.

I mentioned to Rob that I agreed with you. If it had been a true cervical prolapse, you would have seen edema AND the mare would have been straining. Unlike this patient. Is there a rent in the vaginal wall where it could be omentum with congested venous return?

Ben

Sorry I couldn't reply later but I got very busy at the end of the week.
There are several things I want to point:

The prolapse is indeed from the vestibulovaginal sphincter area. No cervix was involved. We confirmed this by endoscopy. The mare was in colic and the prolapse was causing pressure to the urethra and she was not able to urinate (that is why the pain).

About varicose veins I had thought about that but the reduction in size so fast kind of go against that hypothesis. The mare

About the pictures, you can use them.

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Dear Claudia,

Thank you for bringing us up to speed on that case. I was surprised to hear that the cervix was not involved. This led me to wonder how that vestibular-vaginal sphincter could have ended up looking like that. The first thing I have to ask is was this a maiden mare i.e. was this the first foal? I just read through your initial report and could not find that information. I am going to bet a small amount of money that she was in fact, a maiden. I will also bet that she was bred naturally. If not, I'm prepared to sustain complete humiliation and concede defeat.

This is what I have in mind: over the years, I've seen only four persistent hymens in mares. Two of these were the completely imperforate and the other two had one or more perforations. In one particularly memorable case, a "polyp" was seen to be hanging from the vulvar lips. When I put a speculum in her vagina to examine it, the polyp was nowhere to be seen but I could not see her cervix either, although the speculum had been completely inserted. As it turned out, this mare had a hymen that had become so stretched that was like a sock covering the speculum. That is why I could not see the cervix. When I transected the "toe" of the "sock", I could see the cervix! If your mare a similar hymen that had a small perforation which allowed semen through an allowed conception, the foal would have ripped it during birth. If not, I'm prepared to sustain complete humiliation and concede defeat.

It is remotely possible that the mare could've had a persistent medial wall of the mullerian system that allowed a penis/arm of an inseminator past it to allow for conception. This would then have been torn at birth. However the circumferential swelling shown in your image seems to suggest circumferential tearing rather than the dorsal/ventral tearing that would occur in the case of a mullerian remnant.

This is all guesswork of course, but is also fun.

Regards,

Rob L.
This mare had two foaling before. Unfortunately I cannot retrieve the history as to whether the mare had varicose veins before or maybe had a persistent hymen that was ruptured and may be this sphincter was thicker than usual. The truth is that as you see it looks more like folds and the presumption of a congenital remnant could still stand.

Any how it is good to hear the it is not a common condition.

Thanks for your comments.

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Well...I am floored! Defeated, depressed and deflated...

Therio continues to amaze me.

Rob L.

On 10 Nov 2005 at 10:53, Claudia Jimenez wrote: