

Maternal obstetrical paralysis and Injuries incidental to parturition

Dr Bhavna
Assistant Professor cum Junior Scientist
Department of Veterinary Gynaecology and Obstetrics
Bihar Veterinary College, BASU, Patna

- Obstetrical paralysis

1. Damage to lumbosacral plexus

Gluteal paralysis

Obturator paralysis

2. Puerperal laminitis

3. Parturient recumbency

Damage to lumbosacral plexus

- Large sized fetus drawn forcibly.
- Oversized fetus becomes impacted in “Hip-lock” state.



Gluteal paralysis

- Seen in mare and cow
- Recognized when dam is found to have difficulty in rising and when she walks with “weakness of the hindlimbs”.
- Prognosis – generally favourable
- Usually disappears in a few weeks, complete recovery may take few months.
- Slings may be used.
- If the dam can not get up within few days of parturition, prognosis is grave.

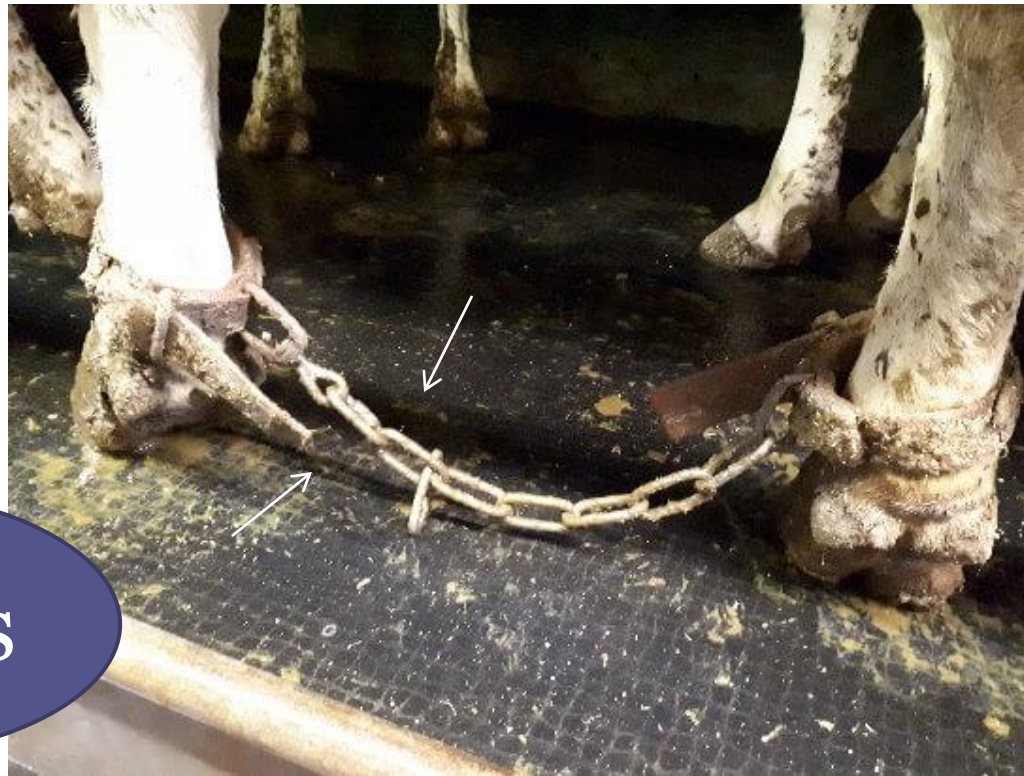


Slings

Obturator paralysis

- More frequent in cows than mares.
- Obturator nerve supplies the adductor muscles of the thigh.
- When damaged, both hind legs splayed and cow is unable to rise.
- If helped on its feet, the legs slide out laterally.
- If one-sided, cow requires assistance to get up.
- If bilateral, prognosis guarded.

- **Hobbling** together of the hind legs with a strap applied above each fetlock prevents excessive abduction and secondary tearing of the adductor muscles or fracture of the femoral neck during attempts to stand.



Hobbles

- Most cases show rapid improvement within a few days and progress to a complete recovery.
- Unless there is marked improvement within a fortnight, recovery is unlikely.
- Treatment comprises good nursing.
- Slings can be applied.
- Bedsores must be prevented.
- Animal being turned from side to side, hindquarters massaged.
- Bedding frequently changed.
- Cow's rear and udder kept clean and dry.

Sciatic/Peroneal nerve paralysis

- Due to dystocia and milk fever.
- Knuckling of fetlock and dropping of hock joint.
- Bandaging over the affected part and nervine tonics are effective.



Puerperal laminitis

- Troublesome complication of puerperal metritis.
- In mare - a likely sequel to ROP.
- Other farm animals are occasionally affected.
- 2-4 days after foaling the typical stance of laminitis is seen, the hind legs being placed well forward to ease the weight on the more severely affected forefeet.

- Most painful affection, causes rapid loss of weight.
- Prolonged periods of recumbency.
- Diminution in milk secretion.
- Avoidance of puerperal laminitis lies in preventing metritis (treating dystocia promptly and carefully, and by the appropriate treatment of retained fetal membranes).

Parturient recumbency due to hypocalcaemia/ puerperal metritis

- Hypocalcaemia – chief cause.
- May be confused with final stage of severe puerperal toxemia resulting from uterine infection.
- History and symptoms are important.

- **Puerperal metritis** – follows dystocia and ROP.
- Fetid vulval discharge.
- Straining
- Expiratory grunt
- Frequent pulse
- High temperature
- Vaginal and uterine examination should be done to verify metritis.

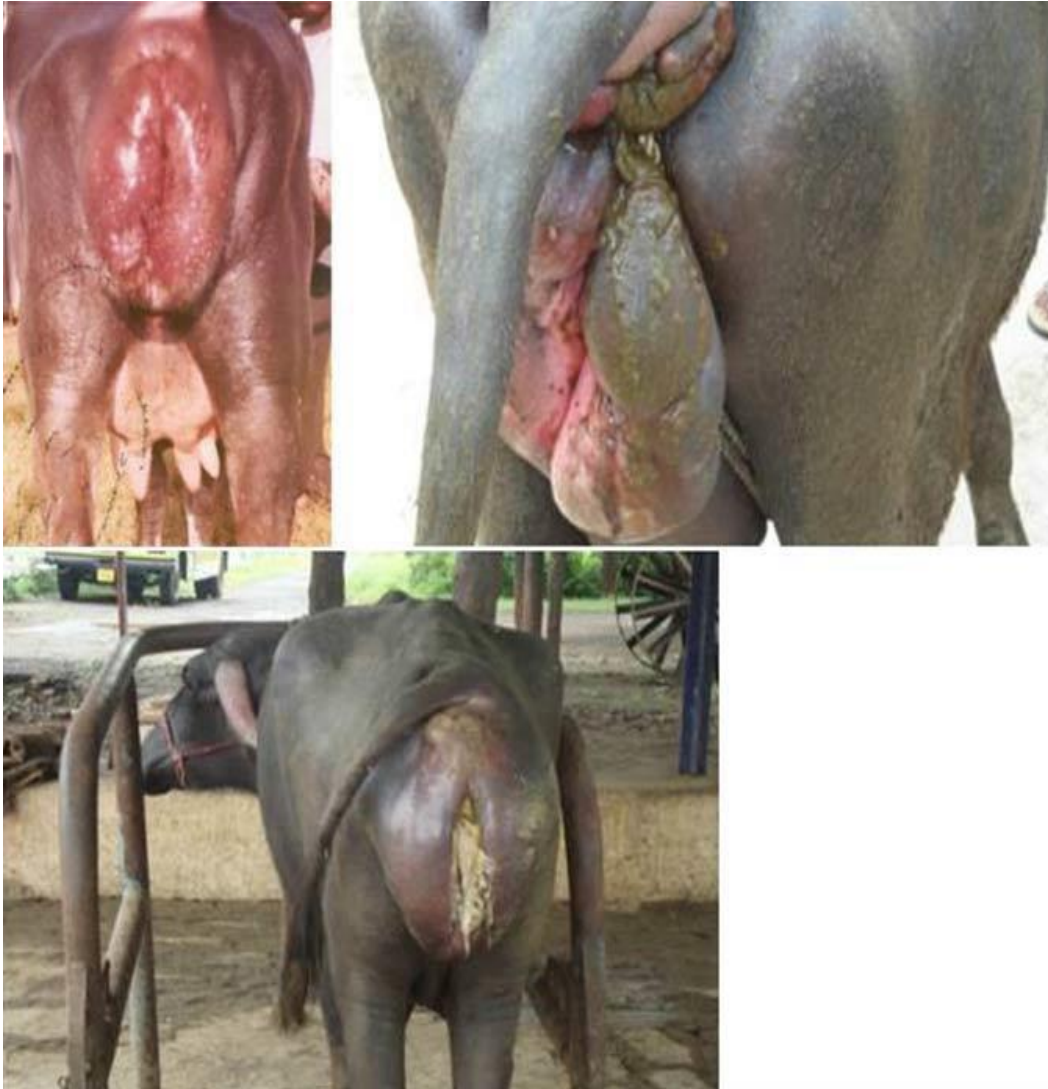
- True hypocalcaemia occurs occasionally in sows but the most likely cause of postparturient recumbency is toxemia due to metritis or mastitis.
- ROP can be one major reason.
- Failure of milk secretion – one of the major symptoms of toxemia and hypocalcaemia.

- Obstetrical injuries
 1. Lacerations
 2. Vulvar edema and haematoma
 3. Rupture of the uterus and vagina

Lacerations

- Cervical and vaginal lacerations are very common in cow, mare and goat.
- Repaired by suturing or surgery.
- Perineal lacerations – common in mares.
- Prolapse of bladder – common in mares as urethra is large and parturition is violent.
- Replaced under epidural anaesthesia.

Vulvar edema



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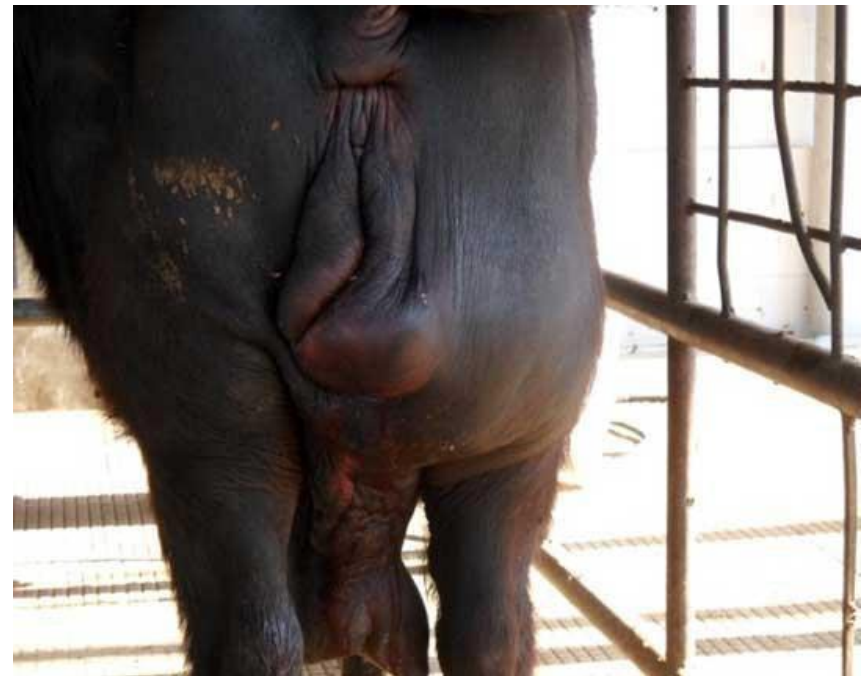
- Due to dystocia handing.
- Truss application for treatment of vaginal prolapse.
- Resolves spontaneously
- Cold fomentation and anti-inflammatory drugs can be used.

Vulvar haematoma

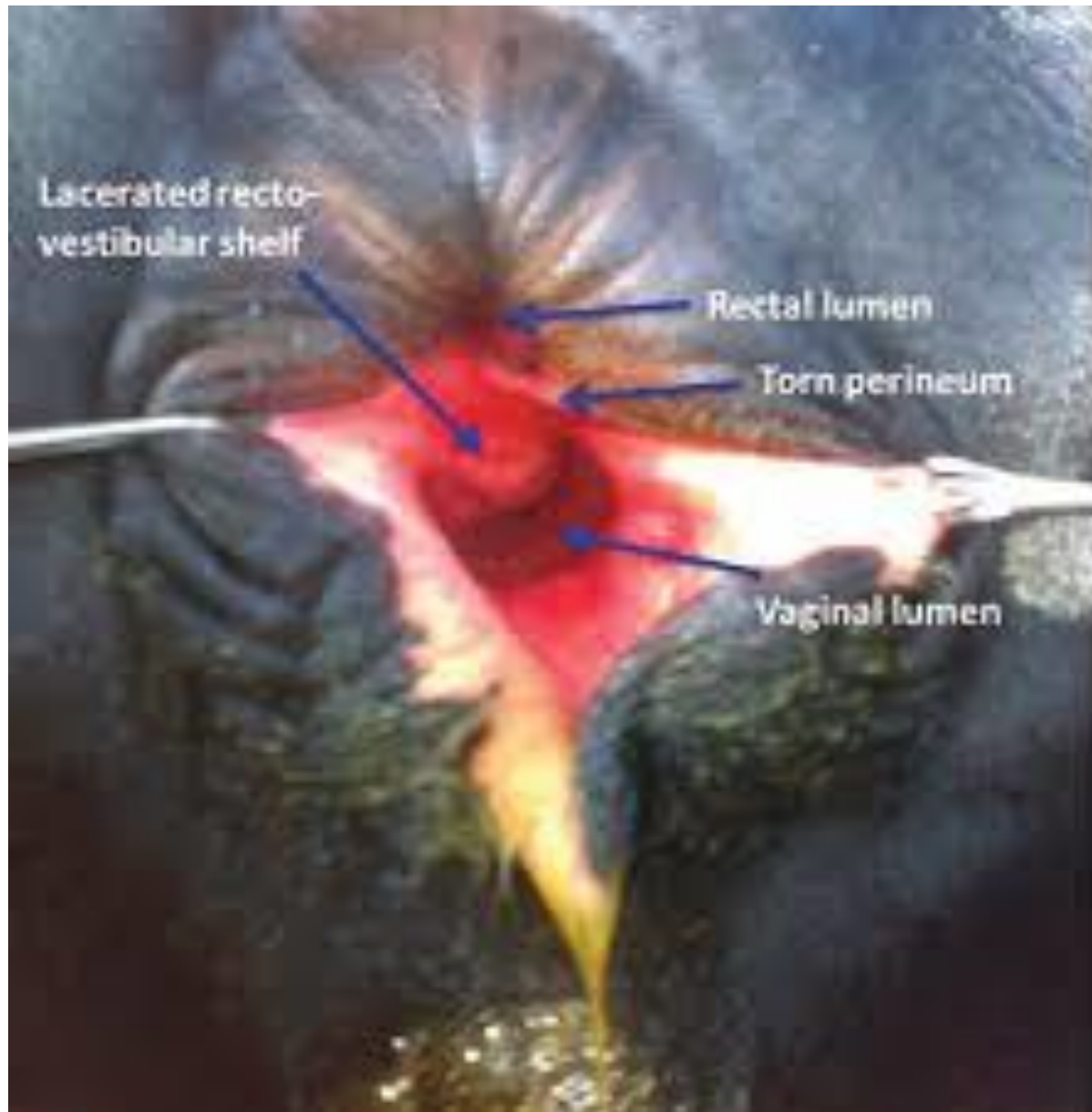
- Rare in large animals.
- Generally left untreated and are resorbed.
- NSAIDS and analgesic drugs can be given.
- If too large, can be incised and evacuated, followed by proper suturing.

Vaginal rupture

- Can be located easily by palpation.
- Fluid accumulation lateral to vulva subsequent to vaginal ruptures.
- Surgical repair.



Courtesy : Dr G N Purohit



Rupture of uterus

- Common in cow, sheep, goat; rare in mare.
- May be associated with uterine torsion, excessive manipulation during dystocia, fetal malposition, fetotomy.
- Complications may be associated with visceral herniation, peritonitis, haemorrhage, shock and death.
- Emergency laparotomy may be performed.
- Prognosis is poor.



