

A RARE CASE OF METALLIC FOREIGN BODY ENCIRCLING THE TONGUE IN A BULL

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SUMMARY

Lingual foreign body lodgment occurs due to indiscriminate feeding habit of ruminants. A 7 year old bull was presented with difficulty in prehension, cud dropping and frothy salivation. Clinical and physical examination revealed a circular metallic foreign body encircling the tongue. Chemical restraint of bull was done and the ring of 5 cm was removed after cutting it. Bull regained normal prehension and feeding immediately after removing the ring. Antibiotic and analgesics with antiseptic oral wash were advised for 5 days.

Keywords: Bull, Bull race, Tongue, Lingual foreign body, Nose ring

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Indiscriminate feeding habits in bovine species allows the lodgment of potential and non-potential foreign bodies anywhere in the gastrointestinal tract and most commonly in the reticulum along with the voluminous fodder. However, the occurrence of foreign bodies in the oral cavity or in tongues are considered as rare events in bovine (Rathor, 1978). Laceration of tongue is commonly reported in animals due to barbed wires, sharp nails, needles, thorns and sharp molars have been reported with excessive salivation with serosanguinous saliva, reluctance to eat. This article discusses an unusual case of glossitis due to circular metallic foreign body.

A seven-year-old male Khillar bull was presented to the Department of Veterinary Surgery and Radiology, Veterinary Clinical Complex, KNP college of Veterinary Sciences, Shirwal with the chief complaint of difficulty in prehension, mastication, cud dropping and frothy salivation for two days. History revealed that the owner had observed the accidental ingestion of the nose ring by the bull while feeding in the manger due to hunger soon after a race event.

Clinical examination revealed normal values of physiological parameters like temperature, pulse rate and respiratory rate where hematological values were also in normal physiological limits. Physical examination of the oral cavity revealed cyanotic, edematous and dry apex portion of tongue due to constriction of tongue by a circular metallic nose-ring being lodged around the junction of apex and body of the tongue (Fig. 1). Severe hyperemic changes, damage to both the margins of the tongue, lingual frenulum and papillae were also evident. Therefore, it was evident from the physical examination and the history, that

the lodgment of the bull nose ring around tongue was accidental during prehension which the bull was unable to remove inspite of the efforts.

The bull was restrained in standing position with Inj. xylazine hydrochloride @ 0.02 mg/kg body weight intramuscularly and mouth gag was applied for inspection. Paraffin was applied as lubricant over the tongue for trying easy ring removal. Ice packs and Topical Pop-in spray application reduced the oedematous swollen rostral portion of the tongue. Finally, the metallic ring of diameter 5 cm was cut with an intramedullary pin-cutter. The oral cavity was rinsed with solution potassium permanganate (1:1000 dilution) followed by boro-glycerine application over lingual and sublingual oral wounds. Injection Streptopenicillin @ 44000 IU/ Kg, Inj. Flunimeg 1.2 mg/Kg and Inj. Belamyl 10 mL was administered intramuscularly for 3 days along with antiseptic oral wash with solution Potassium permanganate (1:1000 dilution) thrice a day. Bull resumed normal feeding behavior immediately after the removal of foreign body.

Foreign bodies in the oral cavity are rare in bovines and are mostly found lodged in the reticulum. However, incidences of piercing lingual foreign bodies were reported by Aher *et al.* (2001) in torus-linguae of a buffalo and Yadav *et al.* (2001) in frenulum-linguae of a bull. Circular foreign bodies hampering the blood supply result in strangulation of the free apex. This case appears to be a unique presentation of foreign body in the oral cavity of bovines and the removal of the metallic ring helped in restoration of the blood supply to the tongue and return to normal prehension in one day.

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Fig. 1. Metallic foreign body encircling the junction of apex and the body of the tongue



Fig. 2. Attempts to remove ring after application of lubricant



Fig. 3. Restoration of normal shape and pink colour of tongues after removal of the ring



Fig. 4. Metallic bull nose ring



Fig. 5. Normal prehensile activity of the tongue the very next day

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