



Treatment of retained fetal membranes in dairy cows

A.S. Asker

H. A. Dakheel

University of Anbar, Presidency of the University, Scientific Affairs

Abstract

Treatments of retained fetal membranes in dairy cattle. The study was conducted on 100 dairy cows of Friesian-Holstein breeds suffering from retained fetal membranes, presented in Al-Fayhaa station, at Gabala, Musaib-Babel. The age of animals ranged from 4-8 years. The animals were divided into four equal groups, each groups contain 25 cows. The first group were treated with 22,5mg of PGf2 I.M, The second group treated with 100 i.u of oxytocin i.m. The 3rd group was treated with 50 i.u. of oxytocin .while the fourth group treated with 5mg estradiol benzoate i.m. The animals were under observation within 72 hours after treatment, to follow expulsion of fetal membranes.

The results showed that treatment with PGf2 with a dose of 22.5 m.g.i.m. give the best results with efficacy of 100% (25\25), followed by treatment with 100i.u. of oxytocin with efficacy of 72% (18\25).

While the 3rd and 4th group treatment showed a poor response with efficacy of 48% (12\25) and 40% (10\25) respectively.

There was a significant difference ($P<0.05$) between PGf2 treated group and other groups, It was concluded that treatment of R.F.M. with PGF2 give the best results.

علاج احتباس الأغشية الجنينية في الأبقار

عدي صباح عسكر*
حميد عبد دخیل*

*جامعة الانبار، رئاسة الجامعة، الشؤون العلمية

الخلاصة:

أجريت الدراسة على 100 بقرة من سلالة الفريزيان - هولشتاين الحلوب مصابة باحتباس الأغشية الجنينية، تواجدت في محطة الفيحاء في منطقة الجبل، التابعة لقضاء المسيب بمحافظة بابل تراوحت أعمارها بين 4-8 سنوات. قسمت الحيوانات إلى أربع مجاميع متساوية كل مجموعة اشتملت على 25 بقرة. عولجت المجموعة الأولى بإعطائها 22.5 ملغم من البروستاكلاندين $PGF2\alpha$ بالعضل وعولجت المجموعة الثانية بإعطائها 100 وحدة دولية أوكسيتوسين بالعضل وعولجت المجموعة الثالثة بإعطائها 50 وحدة دولية أوكسيتوسين بالعضل أما المجموعة الرابعة فعولجت بإعطائها 5 ملغم من الاستراديولبنزويت بالعضل تم متابعة الحالات لملاحظة طرح المشيمة بعد العلاج ولمدة 72 ساعة أظهرت النتائج إن أفضل العلاجات كان باستخدام البروستاكلاندين $PGF2\alpha$ وبجرعة 22.5 ملغم وبكفاءة 100% (25\25) يليها استخدام الأوكسيتوسين وبجرعة

100 وحدة دولية وبكفاءة 72% (25\18) أما المجموعة الثالثة والرابعة فكانت كفاءتها 48% (25\12) و40% (25\10) على التوالي .
 لوحظ وجود فرق معنوي ($P < 0.05$) بين مجموعة البروستاكلاندين $PGF2\alpha$ والمجاميع الأخرى.
 وقد استنتج من الدراسة إمكانية استخدام البروستاكلاندين $PGF2\alpha$ في علاج احتباس الأغشية الجنينية وبكفاءة عالية.

Introduction:

Retention of fetal membranes (RFM) is a Common post partum problem in cows . It was defined as a failure of detachment of fetal membranes within 12-24 hours after parturition (1) . The incidence of the condition ranged between 5_50% (2) . The main cause of RFM might be due to inability of chorionic villi to detach from maternal coruncles (3) . There are several factors that affect or predispose to Retained Fetal membranes ; These factors include ; Age , breed , gestation period , uterine inertia , hypocalcemia , Dystocia , uterine infection and hormonal disturbances (4) . The mortality rate due to RFM was reported to be from 1_4% (5) , while complications accompanying RFM include ; Metritis and pyometra that lead to infertility (1,3,6). There are several methods used for treatment of retained fetal membranes . These methods include ; manual removal , intra uterine infusion with antibiotics or Lugol's Iodine solution , systemic treatment with antibiotics , and hormonal therapy with estrogen , oxytocin and prostaglandin $F2\alpha$ ($PGF2\alpha$). The aim of this study

was designed to investigate the effect of $PGF2\alpha$, oxytocin in different doses and estradiol benzoate on treatment of retained fetal membranes in dairy cows

Materials And Methods

The study was conducted on 100 dairy cows of Friesian-Holstein breed suffering from retained fetal membranes , presented in AL_Fayhaa station at Gabala , Musab which belongs to Babel Gorvernerate . The age of animals ranged from 4_8 Years . The animals were fed on green fodder and concentrate . The animals were divided into four equal groups , each group contains 25 cows . The first group was treated with 22.5 mg of prostaglandin $F2\alpha$ intramuscular (I.m.) . The second group was treated with 100 I.u. of oxytocin I.m. The third group was treated with 50 I.u. of oxytocin I.m. while the fourth group was treated with 5mg estradiol benzoate I.m. The animals were put under observation within 72 hours after treatment , follow expulsion of fetal membranes and the response to each treatment . chi- square test was used for statistical analysis (7) .

Results And Discussion

Table _1_ showed the effects of different hormonal treatments on retained fetal membranes in dairy cows .

groups	Methods of treatments	No.of animals	No.of response	Efficacy%
1	prostaglandin F2 α 22.5 I.m	25	25	100%a
2	Oxytocin 100 I.u. I.m	25	18	72%b
3	Oxytocin 50 I.u. I.m	25	12	48%c
4	estradiol benzoate 5mg I.m.	25	10	40%a

There was a significant difference ($P < 0.05$) between different letters .

From table -1- it has been observed that prostaglandin F2 α in adose of 22.5mg I.m. give the best results with an efficacy of 100% in expulsion of the fetal membranes . There was a significant difference between the first group ($P < 0.05$) and other treated groups . Similar observations have been reported by several authors (4,8,9,10) . The effects of PGF2 α on expulsion of fetal membranes might be due to their role on diltation of the cervix and increase uterine muscle contraction (3,11,12) .

The results were confirmed by Majeed et al . (4) and Gross et al . (13) whom observed that one injection of PGF2 α postpartum wit in one hours or several hours leads to reduce the incidence of RFM especially in induction of parturition or in a farms with high incidence of RFM . while the second treated group (oxytocin group 100 I.u.) showed a response of 72% .

It has been known by many researchers that oxytocin especially if it is given in high dose as in this group leads to increase uterine muscle contractions and increase myoepithelial basket cells contraction which leads to expulsion of fetal membranes and increase the rate of uterine involution and milk let down (3,4,10) There was a significant difference ($P < 0.05$) between this group and other treated groups.

The third group treated with 50 I.u. oxytocin with an efficacy of 48% (12/25). The use of oxytocin in this dose as a prophylactic dose to prevent their occurrence in most of the condition (1,14). The low response in this group might be due to decrease numbers of receptor side of oxytocine in uterine musculature which might be due to decrease secretion of estrogen that increase receptor side of oxytocine in uterine endometrium (15). Similar observations have been made by several workers (1, 12). There was a significant difference ($P < 0.05$) between this group and other treated groups.

The fourth group (Estradiol benzoate 5mg) showed the lowest response (40%). This might be due to that estrogen dilate the cervix only (1). It has been observed that the use of estrogen in large amount leads to increase myometrial activity, phagocytosis and immune response (5, 16, 17). There was a significant difference ($P < 0.05$) between this group and other treated groups. It has been reported that the use of long acting estrogen may have a side effects leads to inflammation of uterine tubes and formation of cystic ovaries which due to unknown causes (18).

It was concluded from this study that the use of $PGF_{2\alpha}$ in a dose of 22-5 mg I.m. give the best results in treatment of retained fetal membranes in dairy cows as compared with other hormonal treatments especially if there was no systemic reaction.

Reference

- 1-Roberts,S.J.(1986).Veterinary obstetrics and Genital disease ,3rd Ed.,published by Author,Woodstoek,Vermont 05091.
- 2- Arthur,G.H.,Noakes,D.E., Pearson, H.and Parkinson, T.J.(2008). Veterinary reproduction and obstetrics, 8 th Ed, Saunders. Co.Limtd. Phildelphia,PA,W.B.
- 3- Paisly,L.G.,Mickelson,W.D. and Anderson,P.B.(1986). Mechanisms and therapy for retained fetal membranes and uterine infections of cows:Areview.Theriogenology, 26:353-381.
- 4- Majeed,A.F.,Taha,M.B. and Azawi,O.I.(1991).Hormonal treatment of retained placenta in local breed of cattle.Iraqi J.vet.Sci.,4(1)61-72.
- 5- Arthur,G.H.(1979).Retention of the afterbirth in cattle: A review and commentary.Vet.Annual.19:26-36.
- 6- Young quist,R.S. and Thfurill,W.(2007) currenani Saunders CO.,CO.Ltd, Philadelphia,PA,W.B.
- 7- Steel,R.G. and torrie,j.H.(1980)principles and procedures of statistics ,NewYork, Mc.GrawHill,Bok,comp.
- 8- Studer,E. and Holtan,A.(1986).Treatment of retained placenta in dairy cattle with prostaglandin,Bovine pract.,21: 159-160.
- 9- Noakes,D.A.,Parkinson,T.J. and England,C.C.W.(2003). Arthur,s Veterinary Reproduction and obstetrics,8th Ed., Saunders co.
- 10-Majeed,A.F.,Aboud,Q.M., Hassan,M.S.and Mohammad,A.Y. (2009).Retained fetal membranes in friesland-Holistein cows and effect of some treatment methods. Iraqi J. vet.Sci,23:(suppl.)5-8.
- 11- Hafez,E.S.E.and Hafez,B.(2000).Reproduction in farm animals.7th ed.,Lippincott Williams and wilkins,Awolters Kluwer co. Philadelphia.

- 12-Noakes,D.A.,
Parkinson,T.,and England,
C.C.W.(2010). Veterinary
Reproduction and obstetrics 10th
Ed., saunders Co
13. Gross,T.S.,Williams,W.F.
and Morland,T.W.(1986).
Prevention of the retained fetal
membranes Calving in dairy
cattle.Theriogenology,26:365-
370.
- 14-Drillich,M.,Reichert,u.
,Mahlstedt,M. and
Heuwieser,W.(2006).Comparison
of two strategies for systemic
antibiotic treatment of dairy cows
with retained
fetal membranes:preventive vs
selective treatment .J.Dairy
Sci.,89(5):1502-1508.
- 15- Pineda,M.H. and
Dooley,M.P.(2003).McDonalds
Veterinary Endocrinology and
reproduction.5thEd.,Iowa state
press.
- 16- Duncanson,G.R.(1980).A
four year study one handered and
twenty cow dairy unit with rate
of retained placenta and
subsequent endometritis.proc.xth
Int. cong.Dis.cattle.,11:981-987.
- Therapy in large animal
Theriogenology, 2nd Ed.,
- 17-
Romaniukowa,K.(1984).phagocy
tosis in the uterus.proc. xth,
Int.cong.Anim.Reprod.and A.I.,
Urbana- champaing,Iv:x1,30-33.
- 18-
Gustafsson,B.K.(1984).Therapeut
ic strategies involving
antimicrobial treatment of the
uterus of large
animals.J.Am.Vet.Med.Assoc.,18
5:1194-1198.