Surgical Repair of Congenital Rectovaginal Fistula with Atresia Ani in Two Cases

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Case Description: Congenital rectovaginal fistula characterized by the communication between the dorsal wall of the vagina and the ventral portion of the rectum, usually, is associated with type II atresia ani, in which the rectum ends as a blind pouch immediately cranial to the anus. In this paper surgical repair of congenital rectovaginal fistula with atresia ani in two cases of large animals is described.

Clinical Findings: A 3-day-old lamb and one-week-old heifer with the history of inappetence, depression, weakness, abdominal distention and discomfort following abdominal palpation were referred to Veterinary hospital of Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz, Ahvaz, Iran. Physical examination revealed normal vital signs. Further clinical examination showed an atresia ani which some feces could exit from vulva through a rectovaginal fistula.

Treatment and Outcome After appropriate restraint and preparation, the rectovaginal fistula was converted to third-degree perineal laceration, the vulvar and rectal defects were closed separately, and the atresia ani was repaired. One month follow up showed normal defecation and good recovery of animals.

Clinical Relevance: Surgical correction of concurrent rectovaginal fistula and atresia ani in lambs and heifers can result in favorable results, especially at early stages.

References: