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PARTIAL GLOSSECTOMY IN TWO HORSES (With 3 Figures)

By

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(Received at 25/7/1996)

الاستئصال الجزئى لللسان فى حصانين

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تم فحص حصانين بالمستشفى البيطرى التعليمى لجامعة الملك فيصل مصابين بجروح قطعية فى الثلث القاصى للسان كل واحد منهما. صحب هذه الاصابة موات (غنغرينا) بالطرف السفلى لأحدهما وجرح عميق بلسان الحصان الآخر مما استدعى الى ازالة هذه الاطراف من اللسان. تكللت العمليتان بنجاح ومارس الحصانان حياتهما على الوجه الأكمل وبطريقة عادية وقد وضع أحد الحيوانات تحت المراقبة لمدة تقارب ثلاثة عشر شهرا.

SUMMARY

Two adult male horses 5 and 8 years old were admitted to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital of king Faisal University for evaluation of their incised wounds in the distal third of their tongues. Signs of gangrene were evident in one animal and the distal segment of the tongue of the second animal was deeply lacerated. The distal portions were excised in each animal and both horses resumed normal life. One animal was followed up for a period of 13 months.

Key words: Horse-Partial Glossectomy

INTRODUCTION

Tongue lacerations are rarely reported in the horse. Hofmeyr (1974) cited the types of lingual affections of the horse and cast light on their treatment. White and Hoffman (1980) discussed surgery of the equine tongue. Mosec

(1993) treated severe lingual injuries in an 8 year old male and a 6 month old female (filly) by amputation of the diseased portions. The following paper describes two rare cases of tongue lacerations in two Arabian horses which were treated by partial glossectomies.

MATERIAL and METHODS

Two male Arabian horses aged 5 years and 8 years were admitted to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital of King Faisal University because of incised wounds at the dorsum of their tongues. Examination revealed two nearly identical lingual wounds in the distal third of the tongue and extending from the mucous membrane through two thirds of the lingual muscles (genioglossus, hyoglossus). The distal portion of the tongue (Fig. 1) was supported only by thin fibrous tissue and the frenulum linguae. The free edge of the tongue was bluish, cold and covered by food material and showed varying degrees of cyanosis (Fig. 2).

Surgery:-

Surgery was undertaken under deep sedation using detomidin-hydrochlorid (Domosedan[®], Farnos Group Ltd/Finland) in a dose of 80µg/kg injected intravenously, this was supplemented by local analgesia lignocaine-hydrochlorid (Lido-Kel[®] 2%, Kela Laboratoria/Belgium). The mouth was held open by a mouth gag. A tourniquet was placed around the body of the tongue and this was drawn out of the mouth through the interdental space. The cyanosed necrotic tissue at the apex of the tongue was excised and a "V" shape wedge of tissue was removed from the body with the apex of the "V" facing the body. The gap was closed using Polyglactin 910 (Vicryl[®], Ethicon) 4 metric. The mucous membrane was closed by simple interrupted suture of the material. The horses were allowed to feed normally and wound healing was satisfactory (Fig. 3). One of them was kept under observation for over one year.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION

Both animals showed depressed appetite for the first two days but thereafter their behavior gradually returned to normal. This is in agreement with Kosec (1993), who noted that horses could return to normal feeding after 8 days. White and Hoffman (1980) suggested that horses should be allowed to eat normally immediately after tongue surgery. Normal mastication of roughage would reduce swelling and keep the surface of the tongue clean. It is interesting to note that both horses under discussion are living normal lives indicating that amputation of the tongue had no effect on

prehension or mastication of food in horses (White and Hoffman 1980). The exact injurious agent in the cases under discussion are not known. However some workers found that such severe lingual laceration could be due to snaffle or snares (Hoffmayr 1974).

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LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. 1: An incised wound at the dorsum of the tongue.

Fig. 2: A deep incised wound at the dorsum of the tongue, Note the bluish coloration at the distal part.

Fig. 3: The edge of the tongue of horse in Fig. 1., a month after surgery.



