Subconjunctival Abscess in a Calf

Dharmendra Kumar1 and Jahnawi Aprajita

Department of Veterinary Surgery and Radiology, College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Rewa 486 001, Madhya Pradesh

(Received : 12-08-2010; Accepted : 22-12-2010)

Subconjunctival abscess is a rare occurrence in cattle and buffaloes. Trauma is a major cause for the occurrence of this condition (Riono et al., 1999). Pink eye disease caused by Moraxella bovis is characterized by keratocojunctivitis, blepheroaspasms, lacrymation, varying degrees of corneal opacity and ulceration (Fraser et al., 1986). A case of subconjunctival abscess is reported in a calf with no previous report of trauma. The animal recovered completely after surgical intervention.

Case History and Observations

A calf about twelve month of age was presented at College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Rewa with swollen conjunctiva, lacrymation and discomfort in the eye. The owner when inquired was unable to recall any incidence of trauma. Observation under light revealed a well defined, yellowish nodule underlying a primary pterigium with mild congestion. After thorough examination it was concluded that the case was nodular episcleritis. Pink eye disease caused by Moraxella bovis was ruled out. Keratoconjunctivitis is the main lesion found in pink eye disease which when untreated progress to ulceration and abscess formation on the cornea.

Treatment and Discussion

The lesion was irrigated with 1% prednisolone acetate for four days. After the due period the nodule enlarged to a considerable size. Routine blood and urine analysis were carried out and found normal. A decision for surgical intervention was taken and after local infiltration of anaesthetic agent Xylocaine (Lignocaine hydrochloride 1%) pterigium was excised only to find, a well defined localized subconjunctival nodule with purulent content. The abscess was finally incised and the pus was drained out. Ciprofloxacin 0.3% thrice a day was prescribed. The wound healed well and no recurrence of the abscess was found post-operatively. Ocular infection due to subconjunctival abscess is a rare occurrence. Maskin et al., (1993) and Hwang et al. (2002) reported subconjunctival abscess without any previous history of trauma or surgery. Kivlin et al., (1995) found ocular surgery as one of the reasons for subconjunctival abscess.

Initially the treatment was carried out for idiopathic nodular episcleritis. Though steroid was instilled the nodule enlarged after steroid treatment. In these circumstances excisional biopsy was the best option for diagnosis and treatment. There was no sclera involvement. Finally the abscess was drained out to prevent necrosis of sclera. Post-operatively the calf was instilled with ciprofloxacin eye ointment without any systemic antibiotic and the calf recovered and there was no recurrence even after a year.

References


1Corresponding author : Email : dharmendrasurgery@rediffmail.com