



Caudectomy of epididymis in a Spotted deer in Trivandrum Zoo

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INTRODUCTION

Caudectomy was conducted in a Spotted deer (*Axis axis*) of approximate body weight of 90 kg. The animal was retained in the in-patient ward for treatment of minor surgical problem. Before releasing the animal to the exhibitory it was Caudectomised as a part of the animal birth control programme (ABC) of Trivandrum Zoo.

Anesthesia and Surgery

The animal was restrained using a combination of Xylazine* and Ketamine** @ 1.66 mg/kg each by blow pipe method (ie. 1.5 ml of each both agents). The anesthesia took effect in 14 minutes. No visible signs of distress or abnormality of vital function was noticed during the induction. The tail of the epididymis at the bottom of the scrotum was held tight against the skin and a sharp incision was made through the skin, dartos, and tunica vaginalis and the tail of the epididymis was exposed. After ligation, this part was snipped close to the body of the testicle and ligature was applied using catgut to close the borders of the tunica. The skin was sutured by simple

interrupted sutures using silk and reinforced by horizontal mattress sutures. Long acting Penicillin, (Benzathine Penicillin) was administered parenterally. Animal was



shifted from operation theatre to inpatient ward. It recovered from anesthesia in 2 hours 20 minutes without any problem. During anaesthesia Temperature was normal, Pulse 60 /min, Respiration - 24/minute.

** KETAMIL INJECTION@10ml vial containing 100 mg/ml Ketamine hydrochloride.

* ILIUM XYLAZIL - 100@10ml vial containing 100 mg/ml Xylazine hydrochloride

Discussion & Conclusion

The caudectomy is an alternative to vasectomy to control profuse breeding. A ligature applied prior to the snipping portion of the epididymis ensured firm ligation that prevent recanalisation. Ketamine a dissociative anaesthetic produces excellent analgesia, and provided good restraint. The (opisthotonus like) muscle stretch normally seen under Ketamine was possibly countered by Xylazine which has a good muscle relaxation property. Premedication with Xylazine which is an analgesic as well as sedative prolong the duration of analgesia. Ketamine lowered the dose of Xylazine and shortened recovery time. Xylazine potentiates the action of Ketamine and lessen the disturbed recovery often noted with Ketamine.

References

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