SURGICAL REPAIR OF ACQUIRED CROP FISTULA IN A PIGEON - A CASE REPORT

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A one year old pigeon was presented to the veterinary clinics, Belgachia with the history of leakage of feed and water from lower anterior side of neck area from past 3 days. Upon physical examination the case was diagnosed as acquired crop rupture due to trauma. Hence, the ruptured crop was repaired surgically and the pigeon recovered uneventfully. The present article describes successful surgical management of ruptured crop in a pigeon.

Key words: Crop, Pigeon, Repair, Surgery

Crop is thin walled muscular pouch of alimentary tract for food storage prior to digestion. Inflammation of crop is known as ingluvitis which may occur due to bite of other animal, ingestion of foreign bodies, kite string, trauma and deficiency of vitamin A and crop impaction have also important role in formation of ingluvitis (Mallikarjuna Rao *et al.*, 2016).

A one year old pigeon weighing 1.45kg was presented to the veterinary clinics with a history of traumatic rupture of crop and leakage of ingesta from the affected site. An emergency surgery was planned to repair the crop. Injection ketamine was used as

anaesthetic agent @50mg/kg. After induction feathers from the surgical site was plucked off and thorough cleaning of wound was done with normal saline. Povidone iodine was applied as antiseptic lotion. After preparation of the surgical site and retrograde passing of Ryle's tube No. 6, the crop was repaired with simple interrupted sutures by chromic catgut (No.2-0). Simple interrupted sutures were given to close the skin wound after proper surgical debridement (Fig. 1). After wound closure, gentamicin lotion was given locally and a protective bandage was applied. Post-operatively cephalixin suspension was given @35mg/kg orally twice daily for

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Surgical repair of ruptured crop in a pigeon

Fig. 1. Photograph showing repaired crop in a pigeon

5 days and meloxicam oral suspension was prescribed @0.5mg/kg orally once daily for 3 days. The case was followed upto 10 days after surgical repair of crop and postoperative dressings were given on every alternate day. On 10th post operative day skin sutures were removed as the healing was found uneventful, there was no leakage of feed and water without development of any crop fistula.

Few reports are available on crop rupture and fistula repair in birds including pigeon, hen, African grey parrot (Mohan Kumar *et al.*, 2017). Phaneendra and Saibaba (2015) reported surgical affection of crop in a hen with fistula formation with sharp iron

object. Foreign body impaction, animal bites and feeding excessively hot feed are also equally responsible to cause crop rupture and fistulation (Harrison, 1987). Similar findings were reported by Basha *et al.* (2010), where they found foreign body penetration causing crop rupture in pigeon and successfully managed in a similar manner with the present article. Though trimming of the edges of the crop and skin was advised by several authors (Coles, 2008), but this technique was not adopted in the present case as the wound was fresh. Hence, early presentation to the clinic and suitable surgical technique adopted here yielded excellent recovery without any further complications.

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