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Short Communication

ANOTIA AND ACCESSORY MANDIBLE (OTOGNATHIA) IN A BABY CAMEL (*Camelus dromedarius*)

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Congenital defects are frequently observed in the musculoskeletal and the integument system because these parts are more easily recognised by the observer (Ramadan, 1994). Defects are usually single but multiple anomalies do occur. Otognathia has been reported in sheep (Saperstein *et al,* 1975) and an Angus calf (Saperstein *et al,* 1976). While anotia has been described in goats (Basrur, 1993) and German Holstein calf (Bahr and Distl, 2004). Such defects have not been reported in the camel previously.

The aim of the present study was to report a rare anomaly anotia and otognathia (accessory mandible) in the camel.

Case history

An 18-day-old baby camel weighing 43kg was presented to Veterinary Teaching Hospital because it was lacking right ear chonca but it had (12 x 3 cm) accessory hard pendulous tissue situated on the right parotid region (Fig 1-4). The calf which

Fig 1. The head of a 18-day-old camel calf carrying rudimentary jaws covered with intact skin.

Fig 3. The excised tissue was unified mandible carrying 2 rudimentary teeth.

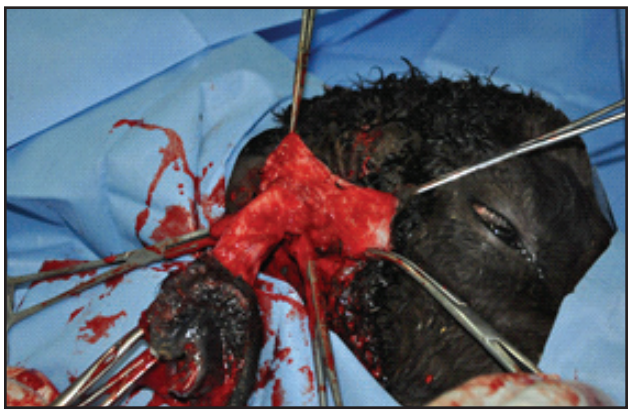

Fig 2. Excision of pendulous tissue.

Fig 4. Postoperative appearance of camel calf.

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Fig 5. **(A)** Lateral and **(B)** dorsoventral radiographs of head of the camel in fig 1 showing ossified radio-opaque plate of bone protruding from the region of the right bulla showing 2 teeth on lower jaw.

was born normally had normal body temperature. After suckling a few drops of fluid appeared on the middle of the rostral part of the rudimentary tissue. Additionally, the rostral part of this tissue carried two rows of teeth (Incisors). There was a pin-like opening on the floor of mouth. Clinical examination showed a normal haemogram and blood chemistry.

Radiography

The head was radiographed on the lateral and dorsoventral projection (Fig 5). The tissue contained a crater like bony structure which was loosely attached to acoustic region. There was a radiolucent area separating the bony structure with base of the skull. The bone was radiographed following surgery. It contained longitudinal radiolucent line from the base of accessory tissue furrowing deep into base of accessory mandible.

Surgery

The animal was sedated with xylazine (Rompun, Bayer), @ 0.2 mg/kg body weight, intravenously. This was supplemented with local infiltration of 2% lignocaine hydrochloride. An elliptical incision was made around the base of hard tissue (Figs 2, 3). It was dissected carefully from the surrounding soft tissue. A rounded cord-like structure connected to the base of the skull to the abnormal accessory tissue. This tissue was ligated with Vicryl (5 metric) before excision. The wound was closed in the routine manner (Fig 6) and the animal was administered Oxytetracycline long acting intramuscularly.

Discussion

Although causes of congenital defects are many but main cause is interaction between genetic and environmental factor.

The present report probably describes the first record of Otognathia and anotia in the camel. Otognathia was represented by accessory mandible which carried L shape base similar to coronoid process. The bone was rounded at its middle and carried two rudimentary premaxilla and incisors on its distal part. The radiolucent area which was noticed in its middle indicated line of fusion between the upper and lower jaws radiographically. More cases are needed in order to elucidate the nature of this defect.

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