
SURGICAL MANAGEMENT OF AURAL HAEMATOMA IN A RABBIT: A CASE REPORT

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ABSTRACT

An one and half year old rabbit was presented to Veterinary Clinical Complex (VCC), Mhow with the history of a swelling on the concave surface of left pinna since two weeks. The needle aspiration confirmed the swelling as aural haematoma. Surgical treatment was performed under general anaesthesia. Rabbit recovered completely without reoccurrence of the condition.

Keywords: Aural haematoma, Rabbit, Anaesthesia, Surgical treatment

INTRODUCTION

Aural haematoma is a collection of blood or serum within the cartilage plate of the pinna which is characterised as the fluctuant, fluid-filled swelling on the concave surface of one or both pinna (Fossum *et al.*, 2007). Ectoparasitism, dermatitis and otitis externa causes constant head shaking and scratching of ear (Beteg *et al.*, 2011), which leads to rupture of the pinnal blood vessels (Ahirwar *et al.*, 2007).

In comparison with dogs, the incidence of aural haematoma is less in rabbits but it was reported in breeds with long ears (Aher *et al.*, 2002). Successful surgical treatment of aural haematoma in rabbit is kept in record.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATION

A 1.5 year old female rabbit weighing about 1.2kg was presented to Department of Veterinary Surgery and Radiology, Veterinary Clinical Complex, Mhow with a history of a fluctuating swelling on the concave surface of left ear pinna since two weeks (Fig.1). Physical examination revealed fluctuating swelling and it was diagnosed as aural haematoma. Rabbit was not showing any other adverse symptoms and surgical treatment was resorted.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

The site was prepared aseptically and rabbit was positioned in lateral recumbency with the affected ear upside.

The ear canal was cleaned and plugged with cotton. The surgical procedure was performed under general anaesthesia by using Inj. Xylazine hydrochloride @ 5mg/kg body weight and Inj. Ketamine @ 30 mg/kg body weight intramuscularly. A longitudinal incision was made on the swelling on the concave surface of pinna (Fig.2). A blood clot and fibrin material was removed with the help of curator. After complete removal of debris, the cavity was flushed with normal saline. The dead space was obliterated by putting a series of interrupted suture parallel to incision using silk no. 2/0 with knot on convex surface (fig.3). Post-operative management was done by antibiotic Suspension Cefpodoxime @ 200mg-400mg/kg body weight for 5 days and analgesic drop Meloxicam @ 0.2mg/kg body weight for 3 days. The dressing of the sutured ear by using ointment Povidine and compression bandaging was done using gauze and paper tape, to avoid self mutilation.

The rabbit's ear is lined with enormous blood supply which helps in regulation of body temperature (Rafee *et al.*, 2017). The aural hematoma is one of the otological emergencies that occurs secondary to trauma. The self-inflicting trauma due to any infection like otitis externa, itching etc. are contributory factors for accumulation of blood in between the



Fig.1. Swelling on inner side of the ear flap in Rabbit.

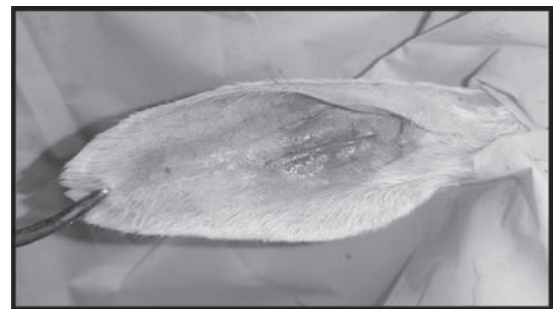


Fig.2. Incision given on concave surface of pinna



Fig. 3. Obliteration of space by applying the series of interrupted mattress suture.

cartilage and skin (Eatwell, 2013). The rabbits generally affected with *Psoroptes cuniculi* causes ear canker, sometime ear canker may predispose the aural hematoma (Saibaba *et al.*, 2016). The curative treatment of haematoma is the surgical removal of blood, fibrin and obliteration of dead space to promote the adhesion between the cartilage and skin (Fossum *et al.*, 2007).

The sutures were applied for longer period in present study, as cartilage takes more time to heal. Sutures were removed on 15th day post-operatively. Surgical intervention is only the curative treatment to prevent the reoccurrence of the condition. Ear was protected by bandaging to prevent the self inflicted trauma again.

SUMMARY

The aural hematoma is one of the otological emergencies that occurs secondary to trauma. It is a collection of blood or serum within the cartilage plate of the pinna. In the present study, a female rabbit was presented with history of fluctuating swelling on concave surface of left ear pinna since two weeks. The corrective surgical procedure was performed under general anaesthesia. Blood clot and fibrin material was removed from the cavity and the dead space was obliterated by putting series of sutures. Surgical intervention is only the curative treatment to prevent the reoccurrence of the condition. Rabbit recovered completely.

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