

## TRAUMATIC ESOPHAGITIS IN A CROSSBRED PIGLET - CASE STUDY

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### ABSTRACT

A case of traumatic oesophagitis was observed in a piglet in an organized farm. Case history and symptoms involved off-feed, restless, dull and depressed animal. Ultimately animal died and post-mortem findings noticed a nail pierced oesophagus. In gross necrotic lesion with hemorrhagic spot surrounding the site of penetration and sloughing of epithelial lining was found. Accidental picking up of foreign body like nail might have caused death of the piglet. A proper care and attention regarding feed is suggested for avoiding such type of incidence in animal.

**KEYWORDS:** Foreign bodies, Oesophgaitis, Pig, Traumatic

### INTRODUCTION

Pig production is very popular enterprise in Jharkhand state. Farmers usually maintain a small flock of pig comprising 3 to 5 pigs along with piglets at their backyard. Preference for deshi or crossbred (CB) like T x D (Tamworth x Deshi) is more. Considering the demand and popularity institute has established a pig unit with crossbred (T x D) for research purpose and supply of piglets to the farmers. Piglet starts picking feed along with mother before weaning and learns choosing of feed. But when commercial feed is provided there may be chances of ingesting metallic substances like wire, nail, and pin etc by mistake and may cause injury to digestive tract particularly for young one who is in learning stage of feeding. It has been reported for traumatic injury of ventricles due to foreign bodies in poultry, turkey (Mishra and Angelo, 1980; Balachandran *et al*; 2009, Musa et al, 2011; Chakrabarti, 2016). But incidence of traumatic esophagaitis in pig is very scanty.

### CASE HISTORY AND SYMPTOMS

The institute is maintaining a pig unit with 80 CB pigs along with litters. In the month of November 2015 during daily routine check-up in morning session a piglet about 3 months ago with 42kg body weight was observed restless and rubbing of neck against iron door of pig sty. On clinical examination body temperature, respiration etc was found normal. Piglet was reluctant to take feed and water. Throughout day maintained an unusual noisy sound. Oral cavity was also normal but seems there is a pain in neck region. Initially it was considered infighting among other piglets. But 2<sup>nd</sup> day onwards piglet becomes dull depressed and started remaining isolated. Third day onwards complete off-feed and on 4<sup>th</sup> day evening piglet died.

### POST MORTEM FINDINGS

On post mortem examination it was noticed that there is a rusted nail about 1” long penetrating the ventral aspect of esophagus. There was inflammation inside esophagus and necrotic lesion was noticed. Blood was clotted surrounding

penetrating site. Mucus membrane and epithelium wall was depleted, sloughing and pale. Severe hemorrhage was also found.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The clinical symptoms and case history suggest the incidence is a traumatic esophagus is due to accidental ingestion of foreign body like nail along with feed. Earlier Balachandran *et al*, 2009 reported a case of esophagi ties in broiler chick due to ingestion of foreign body in broiler chic. No comparable data is available in swine. In poultry and turkey traumatic ventriculitis due to foreign bodies were also reported by various workers (Mishra and Angelo, 1980; Musa et al, 2011, Chakrabarti, 2016). They opined that it might be due to accidental ingestion of foreign bodies and have been ingested along with feed. I present case the feed ingredients procured from local market and formulated in farm complex. The findings corroborate with the findings of previous workers. The young animal was unable to chew or masticate and entered esophagus which was detected in post mortem. Mishra and Angelo, (1980) also having same opinion in regards to poultry and Balasubramaniam *et al*, (2008) in opined that this type of complication might have been due to careless feeding by the farmer.

## CONCLUSIONS

Thorough check up of feeding ingredients if procured commercially from local market is required. A caution has to be taken during mixing of feed material and delivering of feed particularly for young animal. A magnet may be used to detect the nail, pin, screw etc or any metallic objects in feed. Diagnosis and detection of foreign bodies is very difficult in pre-mortem examination of animal or impossible in field and farm and most of the cases prognosis is fatal. Proper care and attention is the only remedy to overcome traumatic injury or penetration in gastrointestinal tract.

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