PREVALENT MOST COMMON SURGICAL AFFECTIONS IN DONKEYS IN EGYPT

Mohamed A. MARZOK¹, BVSc, MVSc, Ph.D, Mohsen M. HASSAN², BVSc, MVSc, Ph.D.,
Magdi A. SELEIM¹, BVSc, MVSc, Ph.D. professor
¹Tanta University, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Vet. Med. Kafr-Elsheikh, Egypt.
²Suez Canal University, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Vet. Med. Ismailia, Egypt.

Introduction:
The donkey (ass) is a solipede of the family equidae, species Equus asinus. It is an important draft animal in many parts of the world. Equids play an essential role in the agricultural economies of underdeveloped countries. However, these animals have not yet been given sufficient care, although they are subject to many surgical affections, which affect their viability and lower their ability to work. Despite the increasing importance of donkeys in Egypt there exists no formal training relating to donkeys. Donkey power is an environmentally friendly means of transport, indispensable in areas of poor roads. Donkeys appear resistant to many diseases. It has also been suggested that the donkey can comfortably pull more weight than it can carry, provided the harness is suitable.

Objectives: to throw light on the most common surgical affections in donkeys in Egypt. At the same time trials to discuss the various techniques for treatment of these affections were dealt with.

Materials and Methods:
The present study was conducted on the most common surgical affections in Egyptian donkeys (214 cases). The diagnosis of the affected cases was depended on the thorough clinical examinations besides the histopathological findings if needed. Eventually some cases were treated either by medical treatments or otherwise through surgical interventions.

Results:
Surgical affections were dealt with in 214 donkeys. The different lesions observed in this study were;
A- Swellings:
1- Abscess in 32 cases (Parotid region, ventral abdomen, forearm and the gluteal region),
2- Tumours in 43 cases (Sarcoids, fibrosarcoma, squamous cell carcinoma, melanosarcoma).
3- Herniae in 9 cases (Ventral abdominal and scrotal hernia).
4- Haematomas in 5 cases (Gluteal muscles and abdominal wall).
5- Dermoid cysts in 3 cases at the neck.
6- Oedema in 5 cases at the ventral aspect of the abdomen.
7- Sinusitis in 3 cases.
8- Udder abscess in 2 cases.
9- Sialothiasis in one case
B- Ocular affections in 36 cases (Eyelid lacerations, ectropion, obstruction of the nasolacrimal duct, histoplasmosis, conjunctivitis, corneal defects, keratitis, cataracts, neoplasms).
C- Dental affections in 18 cases (Dental caries, sharp enamel points, dental tarter, diastasis dentium, denetal fractures).
D- Parasitic surgical affections in 7 cases (cutaneous habronemiasis, thelazia lacrimalis in the anterior chamber of the eye, fistulous withers).
E- Rectal and vaginal prolapse in 9 cases.
F- Wound and burns in 15 cases.
G- Perianal fistula and urethral fistula in 3 cases.
H- Facial nerve paralysis in 2 cases.
I- Hoof affections in 13 case (sand cracks, deformities, picked up nail, and keratoma)
J- Upward fixation of the patella in 8 cases.

The interference was successful in most affected cases following to the traditional methods of treatment and conventional surgical interventions.

Discussion and conclusions:

Although the donkeys in Egypt are prone to many surgical affections, yet swellings and ocular lesions are the most common affections encountered along the course of this study. Most swellings were due to tumours and abscesses, while histoplasmosis, keratoconjunctivitis, corneal defects, and cataracts were the most important causes of ocular lesions. Peri-anal fistula, urethral fistula and facial nerve paralysis were uncommon surgical affections through out this study. While the clinical findings were sufficient for diagnosis of most cases, the histopathological and parasitological examinations were indicated in some cases. Surgical affections in donkeys varies greatly in nature and need more study and careful attention. All clinical cases were subjected to different methods of conservative treatment and possible surgical interferences.