DESCRIPTION OF ENDOSCOPY TECHNIQUE FOR EVALUATION OF PREPUCE AND PENIS IN STEERS

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Disorders in the reproductive system of cattle may lead to infertility, causing great economic impact, especially if occurring in bulls. Currently, endoscopy is a very important tool in veterinary medicine, and is used for examinations of bovine upper respiratory tract, gastrointestinal tract, urethra, bladder, abdomen, and thorax. The aim of this study is to describe the technique of endoscopy for evaluation of prepuce and penis of cattle, to enable early diagnosis of possible diseases. The study was conducted at Veterinary School of UFMG. Six male Holstein steers aged approximately 14 months were used. The animals were sedated with Xylazine hydrochloride (0.15 mg / kg IM). Each animal was placed in right lateral position, followed by immobilization. The preputial orifice hair was clipped, and the area was surgically prepared. A rigid endoscope with 0° of vision and 20-fold augmentation was introduced by the ostium with a trocar. The edges of the final third of the foreskin were occluded by hand, to allow and keep insufflation obtained with room air through a silicone tube to linked trocar. The visualization of the prepuce, as well as the free part of the penis, was performed in the craniocaudal direction. Petechiae and hair were observed on the cranial third of the preputial mucosa of all animals. Membranes adhered to the penis were also visualized. In three animals, late stage of penile release was observed, since the frenulum was clearly present, which occurs in animals around 8 to 11 months of age. In the other three, the penises were still completely covered by mucosa of the foreskin, indicating abnormality, since the penis at this stage should be released from mucosal structures. This technique is efficient for visualization and evaluation of the prepuce and penis, especially structures that are unreachable by regular clinical examination. Thus, the preputial endoscopy may allow visualization of the penis more safely and clear, and thus the early diagnosis of disorders of the reproductive system of male animals, preventing injuries from manual exposure, as well as the risk of accidents caused by anesthesia necessary for the relaxation of the penis.

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