CAESARIAN SECTION IN BOVINES - A 10 YEAR RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

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Introduction: Caesarian section is an emergency surgical procedure conducted to relieve dystocia. It has proved to be a very vital surgical intervention to save the lives of precious indigenous and cross bred bovines of the poor and marginal livestock owners in the North Western temperate Himalayan state of Himachal Pradesh in India.

Objectives of the study: The study was conducted to assess, in retrospect, the success of caesarian section surgery to relieve dystocia due to various causes with respect to survivability and post operative fertility in cows and buffaloes.

Materials and methods: A 10 year (1999-2009) retrospective study was conducted based on the data generated from the 874 bovine caesarian sections performed.

Results: 874 bovines (750 cows and 124 buffaloes) were presented for caesarian section for relieving dystocia due to various causes. 706 cows (94.1%) and 92 buffaloes (74.1%) were presented for the surgery 24 hours after exhibiting first signs of dystocia. 32 cows (4.22%) and 8 buffaloes (6.45%) were operated 48 hours after showing first signs of dystocia. 350 cows (46.6%) and 32 buffaloes (25.8%) operated were heifers. 470 cows (62.6%) and 88 buffaloes (70.9%) developed dystocia due to maternal causes. 280 cows (37.3%) and 36 buffaloes (29.03%) had foetal causes of dystocia. Dead calves were delivered through caesarian section in 720 cows (96%) and 117 buffaloes (94.3%) respectively. In cows, 650 dead calves were emphysematous (86.6%), 50 were oversized (6.6%) and 20 were monsters (2.6%). In buffaloes, 110 dead calves delivered were emphysematous (88.7%) and 7 were oversized (5.64%). A total of 835 bovines survived (95.3%) following caesarian section in the post operative follow up period of one year. 730 cows (97.3%) and 85 buffaloes (68.5%) respectively were the survivors following the surgery. 510 survivor cows (69.8%) and 57 buffaloes (67%) became pregnant within a year after surgery.

Conclusions: Majority of the cases were referred for surgery 24 hours after exhibiting signs of dystocia. Heifer cows were more prone to dystocia than heifer buffaloes. Maternal cause of dystocia was more common than foetal dystocia. Mostly dead calves were delivered as a result of delayed referral. Survival rate was slightly more in cows than the buffaloes.

Keywords: Caesarian section, bovines, survivability, fertility