ULTRASONOGRAPHIC DIAGNOSIS OF RUPTURED CRANIAL CRUCIATE LIGAMENT IN A GOAT


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Stifle is the most complex joint of the body due to its intra-articular ligaments i.e. cranial and caudal cruciate ligaments. Rupture of the cranial cruciate ligament is one of the most common orthopedic injuries that results in hind limb LAMENESS. A partial or complete tear of the cruciate ligament leads to instability of the joint, causing pain and LAMENESS.

A non descript female goat weighing 25 Kg was presented to the department with a history of fall in a pit while trying to escape from dogs chasing it. The animal was not able to bear weight on its right hind leg. On clinical examination, positive drawer sign was present.

Computerized radiography revealed joint effusion. Detailed ultrasonography revealed the stump of ruptured cranial cruciate ligament. The sagittal image taken by placing 7.5 MHz linear transducer at the infrapatellar region with stifle joint flexed maximally revealed the stump of ruptured cranial cruciate ligament, which appeared as hyporeflective and was seen at the insertion of tibia. Both medial and lateral menisci were normal and appeared as hyperreflective triangular in shape, pointed axially. 7.5 MHz linear probe facilitates easy visualization of structures of stifle and thus holds promise for accurate, noninvasive diagnosis of stifle joint pathology in goats.