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Traumatic Gastritis Involving the Spleen

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the abdominal cavity but very little fluid was obtained at this time. A dog catheter was passed up the urethra on December 20 and the urine expressed by manipulation of the bladder by way of the rectum.

The following day the patient was observed to urinate a small stream for over two minutes. Micturation was also observed the next day but only a small amount of water had been consumed by the steer. Two gallons of warm water was given via stomach tube which was followed by the intravenous injection of 350 cc. of a 50 per cent dextrose solution.

The steer was discharged from the clinic December 22 and an uneventful recovery took place. This operation made it possible for the owner to carry the calf on until market time with only slight loss due to the urethral calculi. Several calves suffering from urethral calculi have been treated in this manner at the Stange Memorial Clinic and the operation has proven very successful.

R. Vaughn Lewis, '45

Traumatic Gastritis Involving the Spleen. Occasionally there comes to the attention of the veterinarian an animal with a pathological condition which is very difficult to diagnose. Such was the case of an 8-year-old Holstein cow that was presented for treatment at the Stange Memorial Clinic on January 11, 1945.

History

The history of this cow indicated that before the last parturition she had been a normal, healthy animal from a regularly-tested herd. However, immediately after giving birth to a viable calf, the owner noted the animal developing a rather depressed attitude and for the next four weeks she became increasingly weak and emaciated. Further information revealed that the animal had a ravenous, in fact an almost depraved, appetite, but her milk flow was very scant.

After the first examination, acetonemia, tuberculosis, and pyelonephritis were considered as tentative diagnoses, but upon further examination of the animal these probabilities were abandoned. The patient was showing a normal temperature, pulse and respiration. Laboratory studies disclosed a few nematode ova contained in the feces, a slight albumin reaction in the urine, and a normal erythrocyte count. The most significant observation made in the study of the blood was the abnormally high white blood cell count, which was 18,280 per cu. mm., or nearly double that of the normal cow. However, the unsegmented neutrophils were in normal proportion to the segmented neutrophils; thus it was an atypical, septicemic blood picture, and the significance of the leucocytosis was not recognized.

An assortment of hardware found in the reticular contents.

A manual rectal examination revealed a slightly enlarged left kidney. A bacterial examination demonstrated a pure culture of *Bacillus subtilis* to be present in the urine. Further analysis demonstrated the presence of erythrocytes and leucocytes, as well as desquamated epithelial cells in the urine. The fecal material was normal in consistency and amount.

The animal continued to become weaker and eventually could not easily get to her feet. After seventeen days no positive diagnosis had been made, nor had any treatment been given. It was decided by the attending clinicians that the animal should be destroyed to alleviate its suffering.

The carcass was taken to the post-mortem laboratory where a careful autopsy was made. Among the interesting observations was a various assortment of hardware, ranging from cartridge cases to nails, found in the reticular contents and
The spleen, swollen to nearly three times its original size and infiltrated with a yellowish purulent exudate and multiple abscesses.

Upon close examination a degenerated tract was found between the reticulum and the largest spleen abscess, indicating that the etiologic agent was brought through the reticulum to the spleen by the perforation of a foreign body, perhaps a piece of bailing wire. Exudate from the abscesses of the affected organs was subjected to bacteriological examination. Corynebacterium pyogenes was cultured from the lesions in the spleen, liver and lung. An anaerobic, Gram-positive, non-sporeforming organism, resembling Actinomyces bovis, was also isolated.

Traumatic multiple abscess of the spleen was the final diagnosis. This condition is very rarely seen in the dairy cow, as was pointed out by the fact that very few of the attending clinicians had ever seen a similar case.

This disease, occurring so intimately with parturition, might be explained as the rupture of a previously incurred abscess by the stress of the abdominal organs during the act of parturition, with a subsequent escape of pyogenic exudate from the encapsulated abscess. The bacteria were then transported throughout the splenic tissue. From this it can be assumed that the organisms were not filtered entirely by the spleen, but rather continued their course in the portal circulation to the liver, thence to the heart and lungs. The organisms were present in sufficient numbers to form abscesses in the lungs, but the titer was lowered in the blood of the pulmonary veins so that a general septicemia did not result. A pyemia and not a septicemia existed.

Penicillin Therapy in a Case of Canine Meningitis. Frequent observation of severe cases of meningitis and encephalitis in small animals has presented a serious and challenging problem at the Yarborough Animal Clinic in Miami, Florida. We have been forced to recommend euthanasia too many times due to unsuccessful therapy. From a practical viewpoint, this is the best recommended course because of the extremely high mortality rate in spite of all efforts. However, from a scientific, medical, professional, and psychological viewpoint, it is very unsatisfactory.

These cases present a fairly constant clinical picture. Many times they are sequelae to distemper. Frequently the "peculiar" attitude of the patient is the first symptom noted. Meningococcic infection is suspected, though not cultured for absolute diagnosis. However, sulfa-therapy using either sulfanilamide or sulfathiazole has effected a cure in only a very few limited mild cases.

Distemper

Recently we had a 2-year-old French poodle in the hospital, being treated for a mild case of distemper. She was given repeated massive doses of anti-serum with supportive symptomatic treatment of vitamins, yeast, vitamin B complex (intravenously), vitamin C and honey, and saline infusions as needed.

Approximately three weeks after treatment was initiated, she was discharged from the hospital in apparently normal condition.