1944

Intra-inguinal Cryptorchidism in Swine

V. M. Reinhart

Iowa State College

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Recommended Citation

Reinhart, V. M. (1944) "Intra-inguinal Cryptorchidism in Swine," Iowa State University Veterinarian: Vol. 6 : Iss. 4 , Article 12. Available at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian/vol6/iss4/12

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spleen were replaced in the abdominal cavity, and the peritoneum and rectus abdominis muscle were sutured with No. 1 chromic 10-day catgut. The fascia of the rectus abdominis was sutured next. Sulfanilamide powder was dusted into the suture recess and then the skin was sutured with No. 1 dermal interrupted suture. A sterile pack was placed over the incision and held in place by a many-tailed bandage which was kept on the patient for 7 days. Ten cc. of blood plasma were given intravenously followed by 50 cc. of physiological saline and dextrose.

Post-operative Care

The patient was not hospitalized. On the day following the operation he refused food, which was probably due to soreness from the operation. Enemas were given every other day for 4 days. The condition and the attitude of the patient were good during the post-operative period. On the fourth day, this dog was in a fight with a Cocker Spaniel, which left no noticeable effects. On the fifth day following the operation, every other dermal stitch was removed, and on the seventh day the remainder were removed. The wound healed by primary union, and a complete recovery is reported.

—Dr. A. Mack Scott, D.V.M.
Small Animal Clinic,
Beverly Hills, Calif.

Intra-inguinal Cryptorchidism in Swine. One of the most frequent and economically important arrests in development in swine is cryptorchidism. This is a condition in which one or both testicles fail to descend into the normal position in the scrotum. Its frequency of occurrence in hogs is illustrated by reports from federal inspectors-in-charge at various packing centers in the United States which reveal that 10 to 30 cryptorchids are found in each 10,000 head inspected. This is a significant figure when one considers that the average monthly receipts in Chicago alone are 480,000 hogs.

The typical cryptorchid testicle is small, soft, fetal in type, and does not produce spermatozoa. When only one testis has descended into the scrotum it undergoes compensatory hypertrophy and functions freely. Unilateral cryptorchids, though the scrotal testis functions satisfactorily, are not desirable as sires because of the constant peril of transmission of the defect to the progeny. It is found that where it is customary for large numbers of hogs to run at large, cryptorchidism exists in a greater percentage than elsewhere, because of lack of proper breeding control of the affected animals. Castration of such individuals is desirable since they not only transmit this defect, but the cryptorchid testis may taint the flavor of the meat or produce undesirable sex characteristics when the animal reaches sexual maturity.

Clinical Examination

A 225 lb. Poland-China boar was presented at the Stange Memorial Clinic on Feb. 7, 1944. The owner stated that the animal was a “ridgling” and wanted it castrated. Clinical examination revealed that the right testicle had descended into its normal place in the scrotum while the left testicle was not apparent and could not be palpated. A tentative diagnosis of abdominal cryptorchidism was made and surgery was employed.

The boar was restrained on a swine operating table, and the scrotal and inguinal regions were prepared in anticipation of a laparotomy. A local anesthetic of 2 percent procaine was infiltrated into the operative site. Beginning 5 cm. anterior to the brim of the pelvis, an 8 cm. incision was made through the abdominal wall 2 cm. to the left of the linea alba. The abdominal and pelvic cavities were explored through this incision but no testis could be found. Further palpation revealed that the vas deferens passed through the internal inguinal ring and that removal of the testis would require another incision over the inguinal canal. The abdominal incision was closed by suturing the peritoneum with a continuous row of catgut sutures, the fascial...
Photo illustrating the contrast in size between the normal right testicle and atrophic left testicle which had not descended into the scrotum.

sheath of the rectus muscle with a similar row, and the skin with silk.

Operation

Two incisions were next made, one on either side of the median line in the inguinal region just anterior to the scrotum. The left inguinal canal was explored and found to contain an atrophic testicle. It was removed by traction. The normal right testicle was drawn out of the incision from its attachment to the scrotum and was severed from the spermatic cord with an emasculator as high in the inguinal region as possible. The wounds were left open, and the pig was discharged. The accompanying photograph illustrates the contrast in size of the right and left testicles.

REFERENCE


The Veterinary Student