



Use of Homeopathic Medication for Treatment of Underdeveloped Genitalia in Heifers - A Field Level Study

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out in 150 heifers; out of them 90 were buffalo heifers and 60 were cow heifers with an average age of 3-4 years. They were presented with a chief complaint of not conceiving. On clinical observations all heifers were having smaller size of external and internal genitalia and they were under weight. They were diagnosed as underdeveloped genitalia and treated with homeopathic medicines. On an average one month after the treatment the 120 heifers started showing the signs of estrus and immediately they were bred with artificial insemination and later they got conceived. The 24 heifers shown the signs of estrus in second cycle and they got conceived after insemination. However 6 heifers could not respond to treatment and advised for culling. It was observed in this study that homeopathic medication used for treatment of underdeveloped genitalia can be an alternative treatment for initiating non functional ovaries to functional.

Keywords: Heifer, Homeopathic treatment, repeatbreeding.

Reproduction is a physiological process utilizing minerals, vitamins and micro nutrients for synthesis of hormones and other bio molecules (Sharma *et al.*, 2003; Beevar, 2006 and Behera *et al.*, 2012). Reproductive performance is based on the general health of the animal. In animals with low energy intake, follicles fail to develop to maturity and follicular atresia results, along with a loss of sexual desire and anoestrus. Malnutrition leads to lowered vitality and lessened resistance to diseases, whereas low plane of nutrition leads to low body weight, delayed puberty, underdeveloped genital and endocrine disorders. Low mineral levels in blood result in reproductive disorders and infertility. Minerals are constituents and activators of many metabolism and hormone action related enzymes (Behera *et al.*, 2012). The feeding practices in rural area /dairy farms are usually done with available fodder / feeds in their locality. However locally available fodders either



lack proper quality and quantity of minerals or do not maintain bio availability at required levels in heifers which leads to exhibition of late puberty, anestrus and repeat breeding (Behera *et al.*, 2012). Underdeveloped genitalia is one of the major factor affecting reproduction and causing economic losses to farmers in rural areas. It is the condition where genital organs are small, infertile and do not show signs of estrus and development of follicles. However in such heifers signs of estrus, development in organ size and improvement in functional status of genitalia are observed when they are treated with proper medications, minerals, vitamins and hormones (Viswanath, 1994). The following article puts to account, use of homeopathic medicines for treatment of underdeveloped genital in heifers.

CLINICAL PRESENTATION AND METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out on 150 heifers presented to Veterinary Dispensary Yamanamardi. Dist. Belgaum, Karnataka during July 2006 to July 2012. The 90 buffalo heifers and 60 cow heifers with average age of 3-4 years were presented with chief clinical complaint of not conceiving even with repeated natural service. They were thoroughly examined per-rectally and grouped as underdeveloped genitalia and constituted materials to carry out the clinical study. On clinical observation heifers were underweight with relatively having smaller external genitalia. Per-rectal examination revealed the uterine body and horns were of pencil size and the ovaries were pea nut to ground nut size, smooth and without follicles.

All heifers were dewormed with broad spectrum antihelminthic, three times with a gap of 15 days between each administration and they were treated for underdeveloped genitalia with the following combinations of homeopathic medicines as referred by (Reddy, 1994 and Madrewar, 1996). Each heifer was given per orally (sub lingual) with a combination consisting of Alfalfa 30x + Five phos 30x at 60mm size @ 10 pills bid, for twenty days and followed by a combination comprising of Thyroidinum30x + Agnus castus 200x + Aurum iodum 200x at 60mm size @ 10 pills bid for one month.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The heifers showed signs of estrus within 16 to 28 days after treatment with improvement in appetite and considerable increase in body weight. However on per rectal examinations the genitalia did not have sufficient development in size of genitalia. Hence, the animals were not bred and the cycle was skipped. After 20 days of first estrus the heifers coming into heat for second time exhibited good estrus signs and development of genitalia. The uterine body, horns and the ovaries had sufficiently increased in size and were functional. Sufficient cervical discharge was present at the time of estrus. However in 30 heifers (23 buffalo heifers and 7 cow heifers) the genitalia were not sufficiently developed and they were treated

with mineral mixture @100gms /day into the ration. Of these 18 buffalo heifers and 06 cow heifers showed significant development in size of genitalia and they were bred after showing estrus cycle. The 6 heifers (5 buffalo heifers and 01 cow heifer) which did not respond to treatment were classified as infantile genitalia and advised for culling, as they had not responded even after hormonal therapy.

The average purchase cost of homeopathic medicines was ₹ 150 = 00, which seemed to be an economical option for treatment of underdeveloped genitalia conditions, in comparison to feeding green grams or mineral mixture specially as long time therapy. The homeopathic combination has a role in improving the relationship between ovary and thyroid gland (Boericke, 2008) and can be used in animals with subfunctional ovaries and in animals exhibiting silent heat (Madrewar, 1996). It can also be used in animals having anovulation or delayed ovulatory estrus (Vishwanath, 1994).

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