Surgical removal of ocular Setariosis in a horse
A case report
by
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The occurrence of equine intra ocular parasite has been reported from many parts of India including J & K (Bhadwal et al, 1998) surgical treatment has been advocated & found successful (Pawde & Gupta, 1994, Hoque et al, 1996 and Bhardwaj et al, 2000), though medical treatment has been reported (Moore et al, 1983). Ocular Setariosis is caused by the erratic migration of immature stages of setaria labiato-papillosa (S. diglittata) and setaria equi. The infection occurs in equines when infected mosquito’s feed around eyes and deposit the infective larvae there, which enter and migrate in the aqueous humor of the eye. The damage to the eye is caused by the serrated cuticle of the worm and movement of larvae (Jaiswal et al, 2006). In early cases lacrymation and conjunctivitis is seen, this is followed by the cloudiness of the cornea and ultimately the corneal opacity. Photophobia may also be seen. Same type lesion is also found in Thalizia infection of the eye but in that case the worms are found in conjunctival sac only and not in the aqueous chamber. The present case report describes the successful removal of the setaria worm in a horse.

Case history :

A 4 year red horse was presented to the Veterinary Dispensary Dhamdai tq / Dist Nandurbar with the history of corneal opacity, lacrymation, photophobia and poor vision. The examination of the eye revealed the thread like worm having the vigorous movement in the aqueous humour causing the severe type of corneal opacity.

Diagnosis :

Depending upon the symptoms and the activity of the worm in the aqueous humour and is confirmed by the surgical removal of the parasite.

Surgical procedure :

The animal was controlled by performing anaesthesia with Xylazine @ 1 mg/kg body weight & Ketamine @ 2 mg/kg body weight. Auriculo-palpebral nerve block and retrobulbar nerve block was performed by injecting 2 % Xylocaine solution. Five to six drops of 2 % Xylocaine was instilled in the
eye for topical anaesthesia. A small stab incision with 11 no Bard Parker blade was at the limbus at 6 ‘O’ clock position the worm was expelled out with aqueous humour and is preserved in the formalin solution. The aqueous humour is replaced with hydroxypropyl methylcellulose 2 % W/v to maintain the position of the lens as well as the shape and size of the eyeball. The incision was sutured with 7/0 black braided silk. The membranoplasty was performed to achieve the early recovery. Postoperatively instillation of antibiotic eye drops for four days.

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References :–


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