

Short Communication

SURGICAL MANAGEMENT OF AURAL HEMATOMA IN A RABBIT

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ABSTRACT: A one year old male rabbit was presented with a history of hanging swollen left ear since a week. It was diagnosed as aural hematoma and surgical drainage of the haematoma under general anaesthesia was considered. Animal recovered uneventfully.

Key words: Rabbit, Aural haematoma, Surgery.

Aural hematoma results due to frequent shaking and rubbing of the ear due to otitis, ectoparasitism, otorrhoea, foreign bodies, hypersensitivity and allergic dermatitis which leads to rupture of the pinna blood vessels resulting in hematoma formation (Ahiwar *et al.* 2007). All though the incidence of aural haematoma in rabbits is less as compared to dogs, but it does occur in the breeds with long pendulous ears (Aher *et al.* 2002). It is usually seen on the concave surface of the ear (Harari 1996). This paper reports an aural hematoma in a rabbit and its surgical management.

History and Clinical examination

A one year old male rabbit was presented to the polyclinic, Indian veterinary Research institute, with a history of hanging swollen left ear since a week (Fig. 1). All the vital parameters were in normal range.

On physical examination, soft fluctuating swelling was noticed. It was diagnosed as aural hematoma and decided for surgical drainage and repair.

Surgical treatment

The rabbit was anaesthetized with Xylazine Hydrochloride 5 mg/kg and Ketamin Hydrochloride 50 mg/kg body weight intramuscularly. The ear was prepared for aseptic surgery. The rabbit was placed on surgical table in lateral recumbency with affected ear on the upper side. A linear incision was made on the centre of hematoma at the concave side of ear. The hematoma was

drained and the inner lining of the skin and fibrin deposits on the cartilage was cured and removed with the help of gauze. A series of through interrupted mattress sutures were placed parallel to the incision with knots on the convex surface of the ear (Fig. 2). Broad spectrum antibiotics (Ceftraxone) and analgesic (Meloxicam) were prescribed for 4 days. Dressing with povidone iodine was recommended thrice a day till suture removal. Ivermectin at the standard dose rate was also administered on the day of suture removal.

The rabbit's ear made up to approximately 12% of the total body surface area and are lined with an enormous blood supply which help in regulation of body temperature. The ear veins are fragile and sensitive and for this reason rabbits should not be held by their ears for either to be lifted or to be restrained (Wissman 2006). Aural hematoma is a common condition in dogs and this condition mostly reported in pendulous ear breeds (Joyce 2000) and in the present case it was found in a rabbit. Rabbits are generally affected by *Sarcoptes cunicui*. It will affect ear resulting in ear canker and sometimes ear canker may predispose for aural hematoma (Ramadhar 2005). However, in present case no such canker was noticed. The surgical drainage under general anaesthesia is the most effective treatment for the aural haematoma (Srivastava and Anand 2007). Treatment of the underlying cause is the utmost criteria to avoid recurrence of the condition.

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Fig. 1. Swollen concave side of the ear in a rabbit.

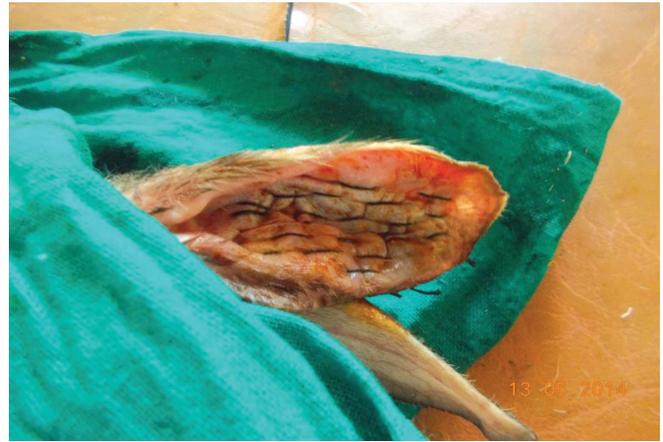


Fig. 2. Through interrupted mattress sutures in parallel to the incision.

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