

left side torsions may actually be due the limbs of a large fetus bracing against the rumen wall and “walking” the uterus down to the left. Another potential traction point is the strong prepubic tendon directly below the uterus. An alternate explanation is that right side torsions may often self-correct. However, if a left side torsion develops, the uterus may become trapped by the rumen. Uterine torsion is ultimately of fetal origin, and there is no evidence to suggest that an affected animal is predisposed to the condition in subsequent pregnancies.

Suggested further reading

Frazer GS, Perkins NR and Constable PD: Bovine Uterine Torsion - 164 Hospital Referral Cases. *Theriogenology* 46: 739-758, 1996. Roberts SJ: Diseases and accidents of gestation. In *Veterinary Obstetrics and Genital Diseases*, 3rd ed., Woodstock, VT: published by the author, 1986. Peek SF: Dropsical conditions affecting pregnancy. In: Youngquist, *Current Therapy in Large Animal Theriogenology* pp 400-402. WB Saunders Co., Philadelphia, 1997.

Abstract

Serum transferrin in calves infected with *Haemophilus somnus*

J. McNair, C. Elliott, D. G. Bryson, & D. P. Mackie
Veterinary Journal (1998) 155, 251

A competitive immunoassay, based on time-resolved fluorimetry, was developed and used to measure the serum concentration of transferrin in 10 calves with acute pneumonia induced by an experimental infection with *Haemophilus suis*. The normal range for transferrin (1.37 to 3.72 mg/ml) was established by measuring serum transferrin in 160 normal cattle. The concentration of transferrin decreased after infection in all the

calves, although it remained within the normal range. It recovered to pre-infection levels within six days in the six calves which had either no lesions or mild lesions, but remained low in the four which had extensive lesions when they were examined postmortem. These four calves had had lower concentrations of transferrin than the other six before they were infected with *H somnus*.

Cattle plague in Shangri-La: observations on a severe outbreak of rinderpest in northern Pakistan 1994-1995

P. B. Rossiter, M. Hussain, R. H. Raja, W. Moghul, Z. Khan, D. W. Broadbent
Veterinary Record (1998) 143, 39-42

Between April 1994 and November 1995 the most severe epidemic of rinderpest reported in the world for over a decade affected domestic livestock in the Northern areas of Pakistan. As many as 40,000 cattle and yaks died, more by some estimates, and mortality rates may have exceeded 80 per cent in these species in several villages. This report describes some of the

clinicopathological and epidemiological features peculiar to the outbreak, including laboratory-confirmed rinderpest in a goat, and the difficulties encountered before the disease was eradicated. It also describes the human costs and emphasises the need to accelerate the global eradication of this most eradicable disease.