

SHORT COMMUNICATION

PREPARATION OF TEASER RAMS BY LATERAL DEVIATION OF PREPUCE AND PENIS

Rashid Ahmad

Livestock Production Research Institute, Bahadurnagar District Okara

ABSTRACT

For oestrus detection in sheep while in flocks, limited exposure is given to rams with tied apron in front of their prepucial opening. For better and un-feared use of rams for oestrus detection and for effect of ram exposure on postpartum reproductive characteristics of ewes, rams before the attainment of puberty and those sexually mature (adult rams) were operated for lateral deviation of prepuce and penis. The operations were successful, no post operative complications were recorded and these rams exhibited normal libido and were found efficient for oestrus detection in ewes.

Key words: Teaser rams, lateral deviation, prepuce, penis

INTRODUCTION

In the present livestock industry, the role of bull, ram or buck, which was previously limited to either natural service of females in oestrus or collection of semen, has changed and the male is also used for ram/buck effect (Muir et al., 1989; Mokhless et al., 1995; Chaudhry et al., 1996 and Zicarell et al., 1997) to bring sheep/goats in oestrus. Letting loose a ram/buck in a flock may provide the chance to these males to spread diseases in the flock. Use of an apron or tying of prepuce with string/rope to unable the male to protrude the penis, is not fully dependable and one has to keep watch that apron/string may not be torn or untied. Therefore, one cannot let loose such ram at night in the flock. There are a number of techniques presently used for making teasers i.e. vasectomy (Pieterse and Uytendiel, 1978), retroflexion of the penis (John and Narasimhan, 1980), fixation of the caudal curvature of the sigmoid flexion (Leon et al., 1996), transplanting the prepucial orifice to the inguinal region (Pompermayer et al., 1993), bilateral epididymidectomy (McCaughy, 1980), anaesthesia of the lateral thoracic nerve (Silveira et al., 1986), latrogenic prepucial stenosis (Aanes and Rupp, 1984) and dorsal scrotal penile deflection (Jillella et al., 1978), with varying results.

Diverted-penis cattle and buffalo teasers are being used at Government and private livestock farms successfully for more than three decades. The diverted-penis teasers have advantage over vasectomized/ caudectomized teasers, as in diverted penis teasers the copulation cannot take place, hence the chance of spread of venereal diseases is eliminated. Moreover, the vigor/desire of the teaser bull to copulate remains intact. However, caudectomized/vasectomized teaser bull enjoys copulation with the female in oestrus, due to which his libido and efficiency may be impaired.

Keeping in view the advantages of cattle/buffalo teaser bulls, simplicity of operation and easy post operation care, an attempt has been made to operate and make rams a diverted penis teasers.

TECHNIQUE

In this study, prepubertal, as well as sexually mature (adult) rams were used. The technique described by Gill (1995) for cattle bull calves was followed. Briefly, the ram was kept fasting over night, the area around the prepucial opening and from prepucial opening to the testes was shaved. The ram was injected Xylez (Xylazine hydrochloride 23.32 mg/ml, Farnvet; Holland) at the dosage rate of 0.15 ml/kg body wt. and Xylocaine 2% was infiltrated in the area to be operated.

The ram was casted to the lateral recumbency, the hind legs were tied and stretched posteriorly, whereas, the fore legs were tied and stretched forward. The area to be operated was disinfected with spirit methylated. Index finger was passed in the prepucial opening and a circumcision about half an inch away from the opening was made allowing to cut through the skin layers only and not the prepuce. Then a straight incision on median raphae was made starting from the circumcision incision to the base of testes through skin only. The prepuce was detached from the body of the ram and an imaginary angle of 45° was made from the base of testes and at this line the prepuce was placed and where the length of prepuce ended there a circular incision was made to cut the skin. From the cut an opening/tunnel under the skin was made directed towards the testes with the help of ceaton needle. Then the detached prepuce containing penis inside was passed through this tunnel and the end of prepuce was sutured to the skin at the site of circular opening. The incision which was

made at median raphae was repaired, and the haemorrhage, if any; was also repaired with cat gut. Dusting with injection Biocon (Vetcon-pharmaceuticals, limited) was made in the operated areas.

The ram was injected with oxytetracycline-HCl 50 mg/ml @ 10 mg/kg body weight (Terrasym -50-Symans Pharmaceuticals (private) Limited), Mepramine maleate @ 1 ml/10 kg body weight (Meprasym-Symans Pharmaceuticals (pvt.) Limited), Anti-tetanus-serum 1500 i.u. and Metamizole sodium (Dipysym-Symans Pharmaceuticals (pvt) Limited) @ 4-8 ml/100 kg body weight on the first day and for the following six days only oxytetracycline-HCl and Mepramine maleate were injected at recommended doses. Antiseptic dressing of the wound was carried out daily with Tr. iodine. Sutures were removed on day 7 post operation, however, complete recovery (absence of any inflammation) was observed on day 10 post operation.

DISCUSSION

Previously vasectomized teasers were used to detect oestrus in cattle and buffalo herds. However, about three decades ago, diverted penis technique was introduced at organized farms. In this technique, prepuce is detached up to the free end of penis in the prepuce. This can lead to pouch formation and accumulation of urine at the site of angle of diversion, creating irritation and unrest to the bull. Thus, the technique was little modified and the prepuce detachment from the body was made up to the base of testes instead of up to free end of penis. Getting inspired from the efficiency and usefulness of diverted penis cattle/buffalo bull teaser, attempt was made to operate rams for the same. It is recommended that best age for diversion of penis operation is just before the attainment of puberty, so that animal may not protrude the penis and may not hamper the angle formation and healing process (Gill, 1995). However, the author has successfully operated the cattle/buffalo bull calves before attainment of puberty (i.e. about one year age) and fully mature (adult) bulls. Initially mature ram (1½ year) was operated and after success, the rams just before attainment of puberty and fully mature (adult rams) were operated and used for oestrus detection. The teasers with deviation of the penis are already in use in various countries of the world with success. These type of teasers retain normal libido but unable to mate (Pompermayer *et al.*, 1993; Gill, 1995; Leon *et al.*, 1996). The findings of these scientists support the present idea of making the ram-teasers with lateral deviation of diverted penis as these teasers are unable to mate. This will facilitate their un-feared use for oestrus detection and ram effect programmes. The advantageous use of teaser ram with deviation of penis has also been reported by other workers and such teasers did not produce any post operative complications (Pompermayer

et al., 1993). Moreover, this technique has been found to be effective and simple to perform even in the field conditions.

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