

ABDOMINAL HERNIA

Is a term used to describe hernia that occurs in the abdominal wall other than those that occur through a natural orifice. It usually results from rupture of the abdominal muscles and aponeurosis.

This form is common in horses, cattle and swine.

Causes:

The most probable cause is a trauma as a kick from a neighboring animal. A horn trauma usually results in subcutaneous rupture of the abdominal muscles.

Abnormal contraction of the abdominal wall as in cases of advanced pregnancy.

Symptoms:

- ✓ Abdominal hernias are seen high/low in the flank, along the costal arch/in the ventral abdominal wall in front/behind the umbilicus.
- ✓ The hernial contents are either small intestine, large intestine, omentum, uterus, abomasum/urinary bladder.
- ✓ In the beginning of the condition there is an inflammatory swelling with oedema that it is rather difficult to diagnose the case.
- ✓ Later on, the characteristic symptoms of a hernia well developed.

Differential diagnosis:

- ✓ Abscesses and hematoma on the abdominal wall especially in front of the stifle joint.
- ✓ Tumors of the abdominal wall.
- ✓ Cysts
- ✓ The diagnosis can be insured by rectal palpation and detection of the hernial opening in the abdominal wall.

Treatment:

As mentioned before in cases of umbilical hernias.

http://www.developmentvet.aun.edu.eg/animal%20surgery/s_11.htm