

INGUINAL HERNIA

Inguinal hernia is the displacement of the part of the intestine/omentum from the abdominal cavity through the internal inguinal ring and stay in the vaginal cavity inside the inguinal canal.

The inguinal hernia is more common in stallions, swine and also met with in bitches.

Causes:

It may be inherited/acquired. Inherited inguinal hernia is the result of inherited abnormal widening of the internal inguinal ring.

Acquired hernia is the result of one of the following:

- ✓ Overexertion, during the act of coitus, tympany with overfilling of the large intestine, and colic resulting in increase of the intra-abdominal pressure with subsequent prolapse of parts of the abdominal contents through the inguinal ring.
- ✓ Kicking, galloping, sliding, casting, serve trauma at the inguinal region, and pulling heavy loads may result in sudden widening of the inguinal ring with subsequent formation of the hernia.
- ✓ Inguinal hernias are frequently met with in bitches, because they possess an inguinal opening and a processes vaginalis.

Symptoms:

- ✓ Inguinal hernia in horses, swine and dog appears in the form of a rounded/oval swelling in the inguinal region. It is soft, not painful and can be easily reduced. The diagnosis in this case can be confirmed by rectal examination.
- ✓ Inguinal hernia in the bitch is characterized by presence a swelling near the last teat which may be misdiagnosed as a mammary tumor. The hernial content are either omentum small intestine, uterus,/rarely urinary bladder. The general condition of the animal is not affected unless the hernia is incarcerated. In this case the bitch is off food, there is vomiting and palpation of the hernia is very painful.
- ✓ Incarcerated inguinal hernia in the horse is characterized by continuous colic lasting for 10 - 15 hours and ending by the death of the patient from peritonitis and intoxication. Locally there is a very painful swelling. The testicle is not movable and painful. The spermatic cord is tense, thick and painful. There is lameness. Rectal examination ensures the diagnosis.

Treatment:

- ✓ Reposition of the hernia may be done in the first few hours by pressing on the hernial contents and at the same time by pulling the intestine from the rectum.
- ✓ Operation for inguinal hernia and the animal is castrated at the same time. Castration is performed by closed method. Before removal of the testicle the spermatic cord is twisted to reduce the content of the cord. The testicle and the tunics are cut off below the ligature.
- ✓ Operation for incarcerated inguinal hernia and the animal is castrated by open method of castration. The vascular part is ligated and testicle is removed. A part of the intestine which is either red/blue is found in the vaginal cavity and is incarcerated at its upper part. It is very dangerous to try reduction of the intestine through this narrow passage by pressure with the hand. The operator goes with one finger between the intestine and this narrow passage of the tunica vaginalis and widens it by cutting with the scalpel under the finger forward and outward (herniotomy). Then it will be easy to reduce the intestine. Stitches are made to narrow the cut part. The tunica vaginalis is then twisted and a strong catgut ligature is applied.
- ✓ The inguinal hernia of the bitch is easy to operate. The skin is incised for 4 cm incision. The processes vaginalis is bluntly separated from the surroundings. Then it is hold with an artery forceps and twisted till its contents are reduced in the abdominal cavity.

Cat gut ligature is applied at the base of the processes vaginalis and then cut it. The ligature is fixed to the hernial ring. The skin is then sutured. When the hernia is incarcerated, herniotomy is performed and reduce the content and complete the operation as before.

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