

Orchidectomy in a Buck rabbit

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Abstract

This communication discusses surgical process for orchidectomy in a rabbit. The procedure, anesthesia, pre-operative and post-operative measures are described.

Keywords: Anesthesia; pre-operative; post-operative; orchidectomy; rabbit.

Introduction

Generally Vets are familiar with castration and spaying in domestic animals. The surgical procedure, pre-operative care, anesthetic and post-operative care of rabbits is not as commonly discussed or applied. Vets are frequently called upon for castration of rabbits and rodents. The objective of this article is to promote surgical knowledge of orchidectomy in clinical practice. Rabbits have large testicles to their body size, their testicle descends into scrotum after the age of 2-3 months from abdomen. Inguinal canal in rabbits remain open throughout life and testicle pass freely from scrotum to abdomen making rabbit functional cryptorchids (Angela, 2008). With huge inguinal canal, there is risk of herniation. Indications of orchidectomy is same as for dogs and cats viz to prevent unwanted pregnancies, prevent urine marking or spraying, damage or trauma to testicles, reduces aggressiveness, to live in bond, diseases/ tumor's of testicles which require orchidectomy (rabbitwelfare.co.uk).

There is a high anesthetic death risk in rabbits. Preference is given to Ketamine and Xylazine or Diazepam or Midazolam in combination, given I/M or I/V. Usually, Isoflurane is preferred inhalant anesthetic, usually maintained at 1.5-2%. Pre-anesthetic is avoided as rabbits, doesn't require pre-anesthetic like Atropine as they have a good amount of enzyme serum atropinase which is responsible for hydrolysis of Atropine (Olson and Bruce, 1986).

History

A one year old male rabbit (buck) was presented with history of fight with another rabbit 12 hours ago, the scrotal sac was ruptured. Owner informed that rabbit was off feed for last 12 hrs. Clinical examination revealed temperature 103.4°F, respiration rate 50/ min and heart beat of 130/ min. Epidermal layer of scrotal sac was ablated. The buck was anesthetised in dorsal recumbency (Mandel, 1976) with Xylazine (3-5 mg/ kg) and Ketamine (35-40 mg/ kg). Prescrotal approach procedure/ technique was adopted and prescrotal area shaved. For this technique, it is not necessary to attempt to shave and prepare the thin, delicate skin of hemiscrotal sac. The surgical site is prepared for surgery. A 1cm skin incision is made on the midline, just cranial to the base of the hemiscrotal sacs. Blunt dissection of subcutaneous tissue, fat and inguinal fascia reveals testicles. The spermatic cords were ligated with polyglyconate sutures and testicle was removed. The procedure was performed successfully and scrotal sac is stitched with polyamide 3-0 sutures and cavity was closed completely to avoid any possibility of



Fig 1: Anesthesia in progress

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Fig. 2: Surgery preparation



Fig. 3: Recovered animal

herniation. Tincture benzoin was applied over the surgical site. Post-operative care was undertaken with Enrofloxacin (Floxi^a) @ 7.5 mg/ kg for 5 days. Pain management was achieved with Meloxicam (Melonex^b) @ 0.3 ml/ kg for 3 days. Along with Vitamin B complex injection (Tribivet^b) @ 0.25 ml for 5 days. Dressing was done with Povidone iodine. On 10th day, the sutures were removed.

Conclusion

Orchidectomy in rabbits can be performed

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successfully in field conditions, with procedure discussed.

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Received on: 27.05.2020

Accepted on: 20.06.2020