Veterinary Treatment of Post-Partum Hypocalcemia: A Case Study

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Introduction:

The description of the following case is anecdotal and is not a scientific proof of the value of homeopathy and of homeopathic products. However it represents a possibility for practitioners to share their experiences and to develop a sharper sense of observation of their cases.

Past history:

A seven year old female Holstein named "Alma," had a miscarriage at 6 1/2 months of gestation. The fetus was extremely difficult to deliver and there was a need for the use of hormones to dilate the cervix in order to obtain good contractions. I had to use manipulation to extract the already-dead fetus which was already in an advanced stage of decomposition. The placenta was retained in the uterus and the animal was treated antibiotically with penicillin G procaine.

Decubitus:

Forty-eight hours later when I returned to see Alma, she could not stand up. When I arrived at the farm I found Alma in sternal decubitus, lying on her chest with her head down and incapable of standing. In the clinical examination the temperature was normal, the digestive system was blocked, cardiac and pulmonary frequencies were increased, nervous reflexes were diminished and the pupillary reflex had slowed down. At the genital system the placenta was still retained but had no putrid odor.

Treatment:

My first diagnosis was post-partum hypocalcemia. I took a blood sample for a biological analysis and saw that Alma had been given injections in the jugular vein which made me suspect previous treatment for hypocalcemia. As she had just had a delivery before term I hesitated to give calcium due to the risk of cardiac arrest from hypercalcemia and I decided to wait for laboratory data before introducing an allopathic treatment. Instead, I opened my box of anti-homotoxic medicines and administered one ampule of Traumeel® intravenously, one ampule by i.m., and a third ampule sublingually.

I left the stable to write the laboratory form and prepare the bill and left a note for the owner stating I would call back with the results later that afternoon. Before leaving I took a look at Alma, who was already showing signs of improvement. She was holding her head high, with ears straight and she was munching on hay, looking at me.

Laboratory:

By the end of that afternoon I received the lab results: calcium and magnesium were low, the CK and AST enzymes were elevated. Ca: 1.61, Mg: 1.04, Ck: 5760, Ast: 197. The other biological data were nearly normal. I returned to the farm to administer more calcium but when I arrived Alma was standing and eating heartily. I asked the farm workers about the treatment she was given and was told that the previous day she had been given three treatments for hypocalcemia and that same morning another calcium treatment without any result. Since my visit that afternoon Alma had had no other treatment. I explained the lab results to the owner and told him that if Alma felt weak she would need more calcium. The next day, Alma was standing up, eating well, and in no need of calcium.

Summary:

It appears that though the lab results showed low calcium and low magnesium, the administration of Traumeel® allowed Alma to regulate and stabilize her electrolytic balance. Also, Traumeel® as a drainage remedy seemed to bring the enzymes into a detoxification phase and led to the recovery of the digestive and muscular systems.

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