

Management of mating injuries in two Asiatic Lions (*Panthera Leo*)

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Two Asiatic lions, one male aged about 22 years and one female aged about 17 years, belonging to lion safari of Nandankanan Zoo inflicted serious injuries on one another during mating. It was noted that both the animals became anorectic and dull. The wounds had become infested with maggots. It was decided to tranquilize the lions for detailed examination and treatment.

Both the lions were separated and brought to their feeding pens. The lioness was darted with a mixture of 0.6mg of atropine sulphate, 200mg of xylazine hydrochloride (2mg/kg b.wt) and 200mg of ketamine hydrochloride (2mg/kg b.wt) using a blow pipe (fig.1^w) on 23.1.08. She was recumbent within 10minutes (fig.2^w). On examination extensive maggotted wounds involving anus and vagina were found (fig.3^w). The wounds were washed with 0.1% potassium permanganate lotion. Powdered naphthalene balls about 100gm mixed with 250ml of coconut oil was painted over the wounds. The anus and vaginal walls were apposed with nylon retention suture impregnated with DMSO (fig.4^w). The lioness was administered with 500ml of 5% DNS, 500ml of RL intravenously and 1gm of ceftriaxone sodium, 10ml of meloxicam intramuscularly (fig.5^w). Ivermectin 3ml was injected subcutaneously. The heart rate and respiration rate was noted to be 70-80/minute and 12-18/minute respectively throughout the operation period. The animal was revived with 2ml (20mg of yohimbine hydrochloride@0.2mg/kg b.wt) of reverzine administered intravenously. Hematological examination revealed absence of trypanosomes. The differential count showed neutrophil 88%, eosinophil 2%, lymphocyte 8% and monocyte 2%. The ceftriaxone sodium and melonex was administered intramuscularly daily for another 3 days using blow pipe while keeping the lioness in a squeeze cage. Luke warm potassium permanganate lotion was sprayed over the wound by a hand pump. After drying the wounds with cotton swab held by a long forceps, Himax lotion was painted over it (fig.6^w).

The lion was similarly tranquilized with 0.6mg of atropine sulphate, 250mg of xylazine hydrochloride and 200mg of ketamine hydrochloride. The deep wound at nasal sinus area was washed, debrided and stiched with nylon suture dipped in (DMSO) dimethyl sulfoxide in mattress fashion (fig.7^w). The lacerated wound involving the left lower eyelid was dressed with gentamycin eye drops. The lion had developed bilateral cataract (fig.8^w). The same medicines were administered to the lion. The blood picture of the lion was also negative for tryps and the differential count for neutrophil, eosinophil, lymphocyte and monocyte percentage was 85%, 1%, 9% and 5% respectively. On 27.1.08 there was slight gaping of the wounds (fig.9^w) which was dressed with spraying of betadine lotion and fly repellent. Both the lions recovered uneventfully.

In the present case, the lion and the lioness might have copulated repeatedly in a day for several days causing trauma to the vaginal wall and subsequent infestation with maggots resulted in deep wounds involving anus and vagina. The wound in the lion might have been caused by the female during copulation. Parenteral antibiotic, local dressing resulted in healing of the wounds. Nylon suture impregnated with DMSO reduced irritation during healing process.

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Fig.1. Showing darting with blow pipe.



Fig.2. Showing recumbent lioness.



Fig.3.Showing maggots in the wound.



Fig.4.Showing appositional sutures on vagina and anus.



Fig.5.Showing fluid administration and monitoring the lioness during operation.



Fig.6.Showing dressing of the wound by spraying medicines.



Fig.7.Showing suturing of the wound at nasal sinus area of the lion.



Fig.8.Showing revived lion. Note bilateral cataract in the lion.



Fig.9.Showing recovered lion with slight gapping of the wound,