

Bladder Retroflexion in a Pointer Bitch During Pregnancy (Pointer Irkı Bir Köpekte Gebelik Sürecinde Karşılaşılan İdrar Kesesi Retrofleksiyonu)

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Article Code: KVFD-2017-17521 Published Online: 24.02.2017

Citation of This Article

Özenc E, Birdane MK, Yaprakçı MV, Demirkan İ: Bladder retroflexion in a Pointer bitch during pregnancy. *Kafkas Univ Vet Fak Derg*, 23 (3): 513-514, 2017. DOI: 10.9775/kvfd.2017.17521

Dear Editor,

We would like to report a rare case of bladder retroflexion during pregnancy in a bitch.

A 4-year-old pregnant Pointer bitch was brought to Clinic of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Afyon Kocatepe University with the complaint of vaginal mass and dysuria. In patient's history, it was learnt that the bitch was mated 50 days ago. Owner also stated that the dog experienced a recent abdominal blunt trauma. On clinical examination, a protruded vaginal mass was observed (*Fig. 1a*). In ultrasonography, a large amount of anechoic image was seen in the prolapsed tissue. The abdominal ultrasonography revealed that the dog was pregnant but two fetuses were not viable. In addition, urinary bladder was not in normal position. Then it was decided to carry out ovariohysterectomy and to reduce the retroflexed bladder into normal position concurrently. Within two days after surgical intervention, the urinary bladder was retroflexed once again (*Fig. 1b*). A positive contrast cystourethrography was performed to reveal the bladder position (*Fig. 1c*). In the second surgery, cystopexy of the retroflexed urinary bladder to the right abdominal wall was performed (*Fig. 1d*). Ten days after the second surgery, the skin sutures were removed and no complications were observed (*Fig. 2*). After ten months following second surgery recurrence of the retroflexion was not detected.

Retroflexion of the urinary bladder has been documented in the first stage of parturition in a bitch^[1],

postpartum three weeks in a cat^[2], in the neutered bitch^[3] and presence of follicular cyst in the ovary in a bitch^[4]. Our literature search revealed that, there is one report of bladder retroflexion related to pregnancy and continuous barking^[5]. However, our case differs from the study of Sontas et al.^[5] since the retroflexion was associated with abdominal trauma leading to increased intra-abdominal pressure. One paper^[6] describes urinary bladder retroflexion in two male dogs with a history of traffic accident. However, in our case the bladder retroflexion occurred in the bitch by blunt trauma.

To our knowledge, this case was the first report in the literature describing an increased intra-abdominal pressure related to abdominal trauma in a pregnant bitch. As a result, urinary bladder retroflexion must be correctly evaluated in pregnant bitch and cystopexy can be considered as one of the choice to prevent recurrence.

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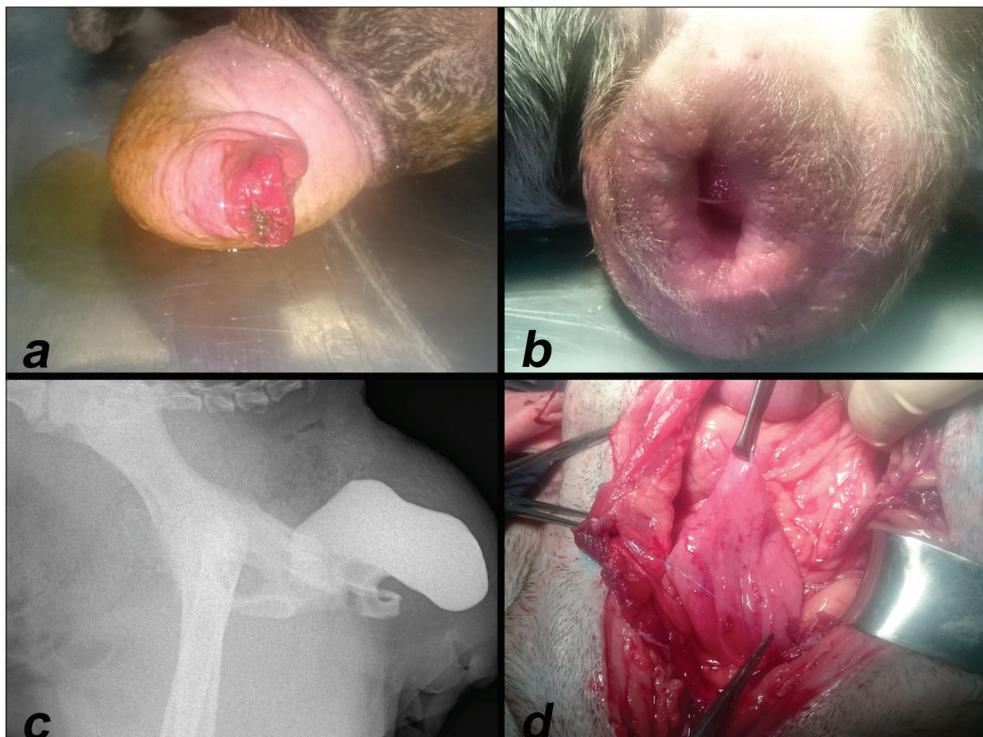


Fig 1. a- Prolapsed vagina in the pregnant Pointer bitch before the first surgery, b- Recurrence of the retroflexion before the second surgery, c- Positive contrast cystourethrogram (latero-lateral projection) d- Cystopexy

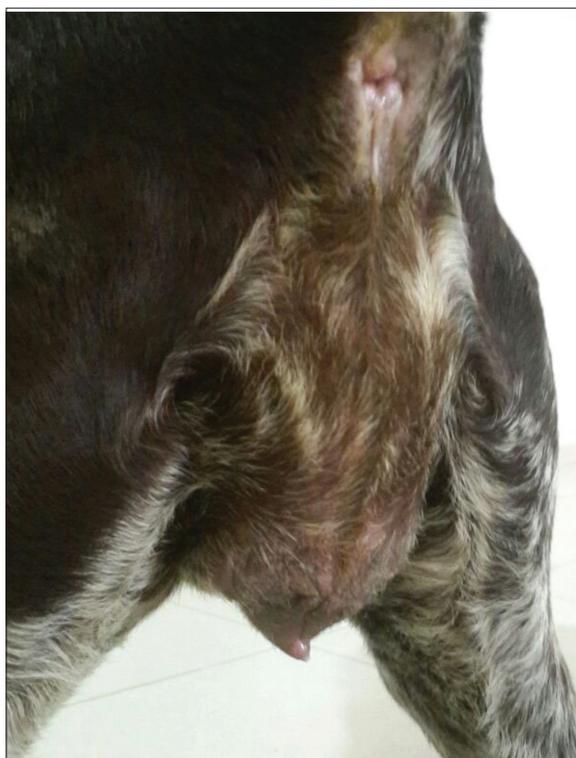


Fig 2. Ten days after the second surgery, full recovery was observed