

Surgical affections of the Tongue (5th theory surgery) lecture 10

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1. **Smooth tongue**: congenital abnormality in cattle characterized by absence of horny papillae over dorsal surface of the tongue. There are no symptoms in small ages and when the animal becomes older (where the animal has to grass).

a. There is difficulty in prehension.

b. The animal loses its condition

c. The growth is retarded.

No treatment for this case (There is a cure and the affected cattle should be slaughtered).

2. **Trauma**: Spiny vegetation or fine thorns sometime cause injury to the tongue in all species. Also possible to cause local infection and development.

Symptoms: animal enable to protrude the tongue for feeding. There is salivation and halitosis.

Treatment:

- Cleaning the area.
- After put mouth gag.
- Application of local antiseptic and antibiotics.
- Supported by systemic antibiotics.
- Feed must be green feed and gruels.

3. **laceration of the tongue (injury of the tongue):**

It is very common in horse, dog and cattle, due to or by the needle, bits of glass piece in the food, by sharp teeth, by excessive traction of the tongue during anesthesia or bitten during anesthesia.

Symptoms:

- Bleeding (hemorrhage is usually slight).
- Salivation.
- Reluctance to feed.
- Slow mastication.
- Halitosis.
- Reluctance to move the tongue.

Treatment:

When there is **superficial laceration** , washing the mouth by antiseptic (mild antiseptic) or with sodium carbonate and apply Boric acid glycerin or Sulpha and glycerin, or Tunic acid and glycerin , and suture if need.

In case of deep laceration: suturing the tongue by deep suture under general anesthesia

In case of severe damage and gangrene: amputation of the tongue or partial glossectomy is indicated.

Glossectomy: Can be done in horse, pigs, and sheep. It can be done under general anesthesia:

- 1- As much of the tongue is saved as possible.
- 2- Bleeding controlled by clamp or tourniquet.
- 3- Make V-shape incision (the base of the V-toward the root of the tongue).
- 4- Ligature the lingual artery and vein.
- 5- Release the tourniquet and electrocoagulate any remaining bleeding.
- 6- The two arms of the V- incision are sutured by interrupted suture of silk by deep suture.
- 7- No need for help in feeding and drinking, because healing is very good.



4. **Snake bite:** Never occur in horses, sheep and pigs. But it is most common in cattle –as the tongue is protruded during feeding to bring grass or hay into the mouth.

Symptoms:

- Swelling of the inter-mandibular region.
- The tongue is swelling.
- Discolored (cyanosis).
- Protruded from the mouth, gangrene and septicemia are readily develops.

Treatment:

- 1- Local and intramuscular injection of antibiotic.
- 2- Feeding and drinking remain through mouth if the local reaction not severe, but if it is severe can maintain through rumen (by rumenostomy) and can incise the tongue to drain the exudates.

Prognosis –is grave.

5. Strangulation of the tongue :

Commonly seen in horses and in dogs (rubber ring slipped over it). In horse caused by tying a string around the tongue for control the animal or around the jaw and the tongue.

Symptoms: the tongue become swollen and cyanotic in front of the ligature and later become gangrene.

Treatment : remove the cause –scarification of the dorsum of tongue to remove the exudates , and later partial glossectomy .

6. Glossoplegia: (paralysis of the tongue).(glossohemplesia) .

Paralysis of the tongue due to paralysis of the hypoglossal nerve.

Causes:

- It occurs due to infection.
- Neoplasm along the course of the nerve.
- Botulism and after eating moldy hay.
- Debilitating diseases (copper and cobalt deficiency) and lead poisoning.

Symptoms:

- when it is unilateral –the tongue show on one side of the mouth (drawn toward the an-affected side)
- in bilateral paralysis –the whole tongue is flaccid and hangs out of the mouth .

Treatment:

1. Treatment the cause firstly.
2. Give nerving tonics.

Prognosis: is grave.

7. **Neoplasia**: (tumors of the tongue) are not common, but sequamous cell carcinoma has been reported.

Symptoms:

- Reluctance to feed.
- The tongue cannot protrude out.
- Salivation.
- Halitosis.

Treatment: if it is localized, excision if possible, or amputation of the tongue (glossectomy).