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INTRODUCTION

Pseudopregnancy is one of the main causes of temporary infertility in goats, especially in dairy herds where the incidence varies around 15 %. The persistence of *corpus luteum* seems to be the cause of accumulation of aseptic liquid in the uterus without viable embryo. The etiology of hydrometra or mucometra is not totally understood, but failure of luteal regression can be the result of ovulation without fertilization in a non-mated cycling animals or an early embryonic mortality.

We herein report ovariectomy for the treatment of a recurrent mucometra.

A - CASE REPORT

PATIENT

A 7-years old non-mated overweight (20 kg) pet goat (Fig.1).

HISTORY

She was referred in 2015 for depression and anorexia. A mucometra was diagnosed by X-rays and ultrasonography. The medical treatment consisting in the injection of prostaglandin (PGF2 α), two injections 12 days interval, was efficient.

Nowadays, she was referred for same symptoms.

CLINICAL EXAMINATION

She revealed anorexia, weakness, tachycardia, bilateral abdominal

distension.



Fig 1: overweight and abdominal distension

BIOCHEMISTRY & HAEMATOLOGY

Dehydration (Hct = 60%), neutrophilia, monocytosis. Blood progesterone concentration was low (<2 μ g/L).

B - DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

Abdominal radiography and US revealed severe uterine distension compatible with mucometra and secondary functional ileus.

2015

Fig 2: ultrasonography of the uterus with echoic liquid and no fetus visualized.

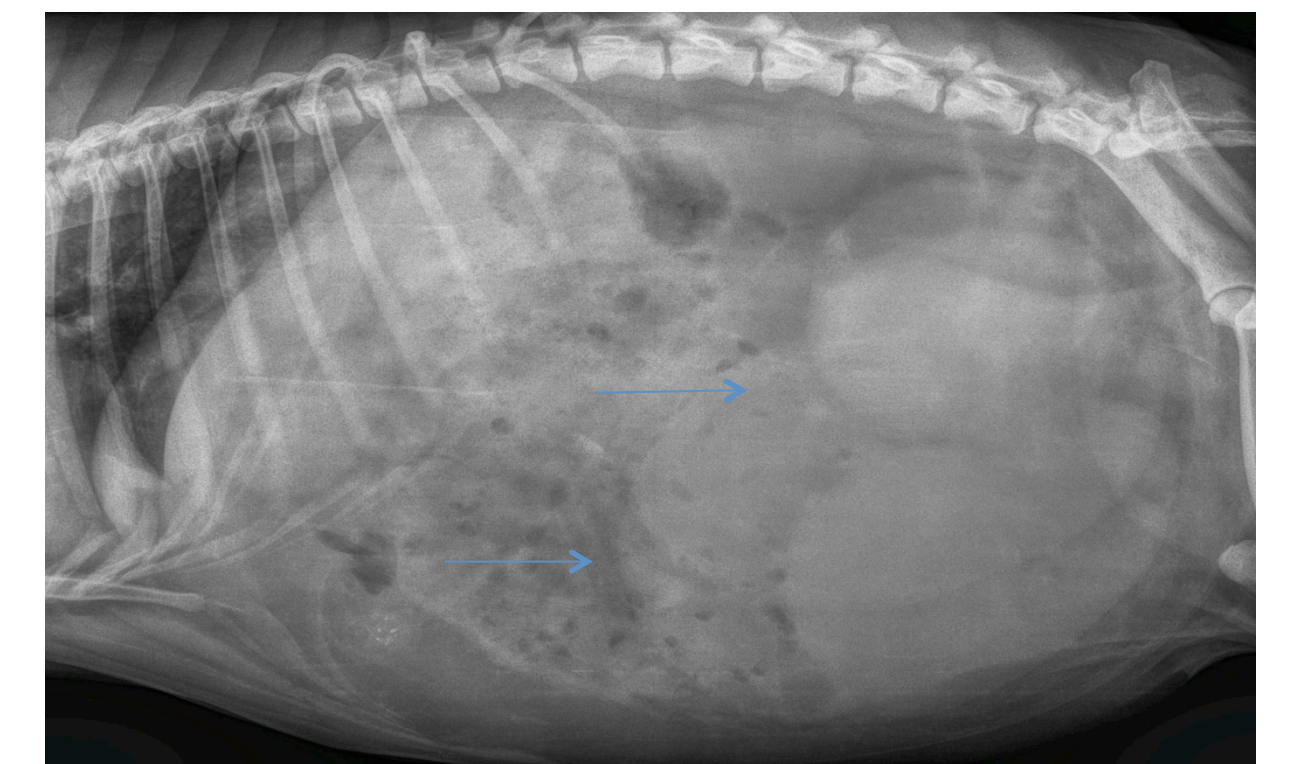
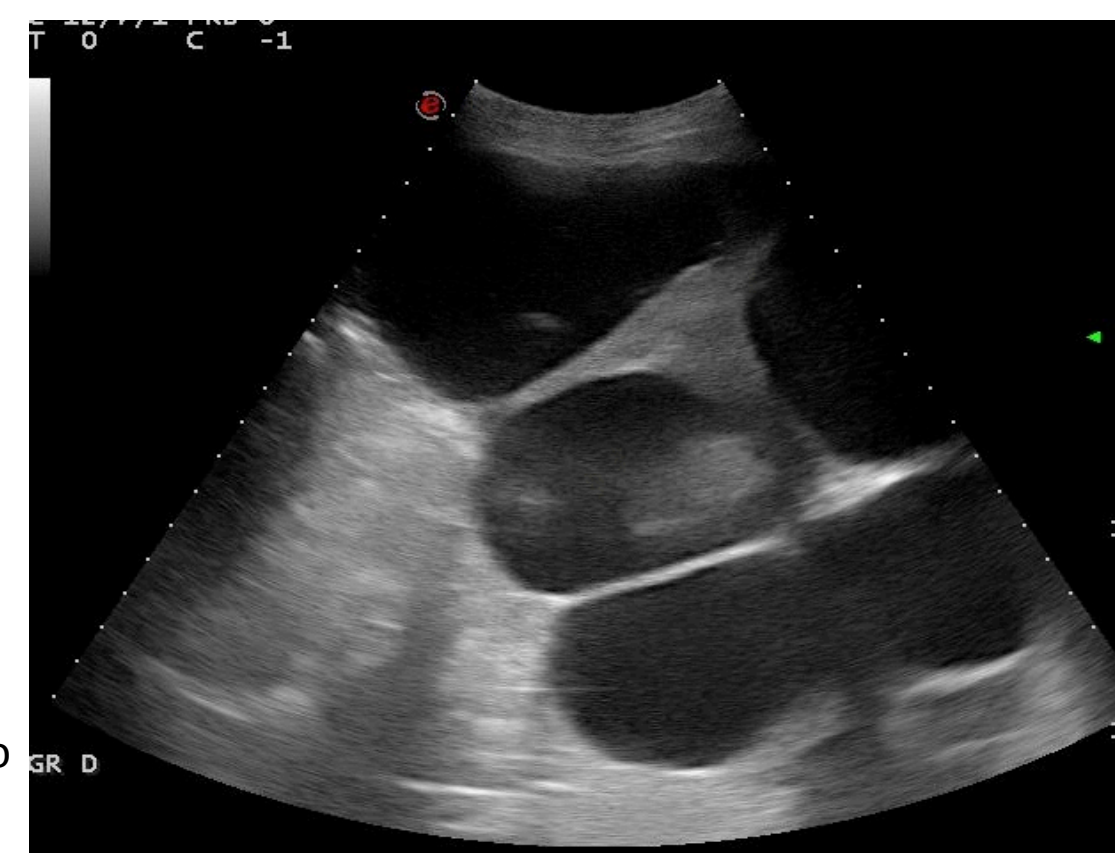


Fig 3: abdominal radiography showing distended uterus (arrows).

2016

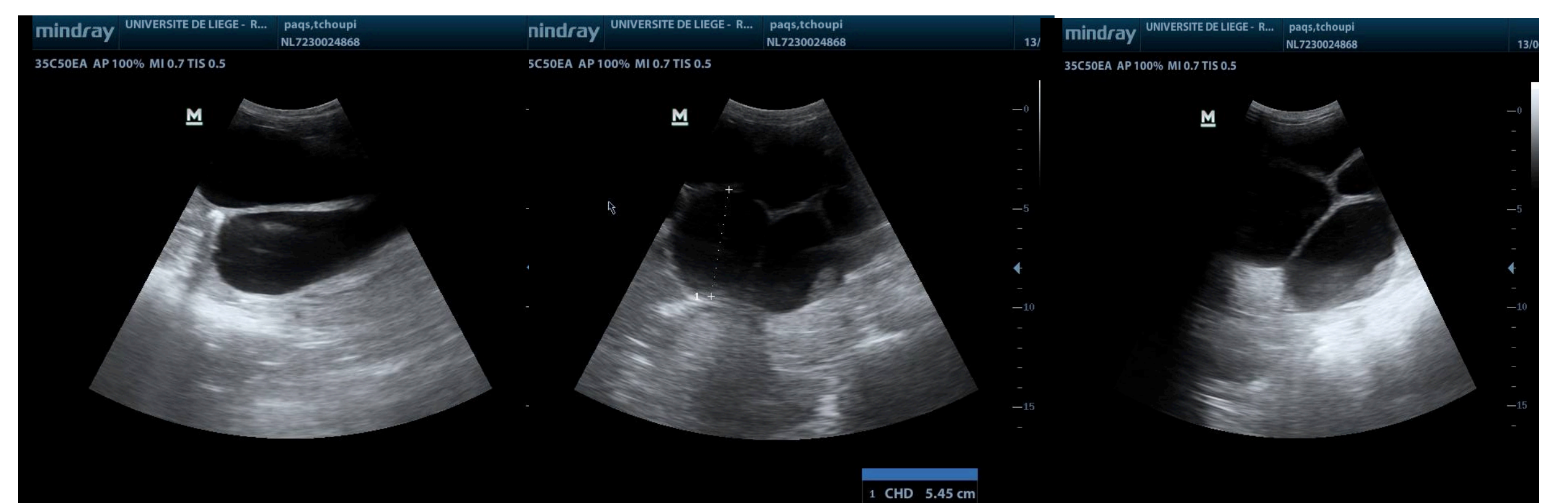


Fig 4: Evolution of uterine liquid during hospitalization to anechoic to echoic.

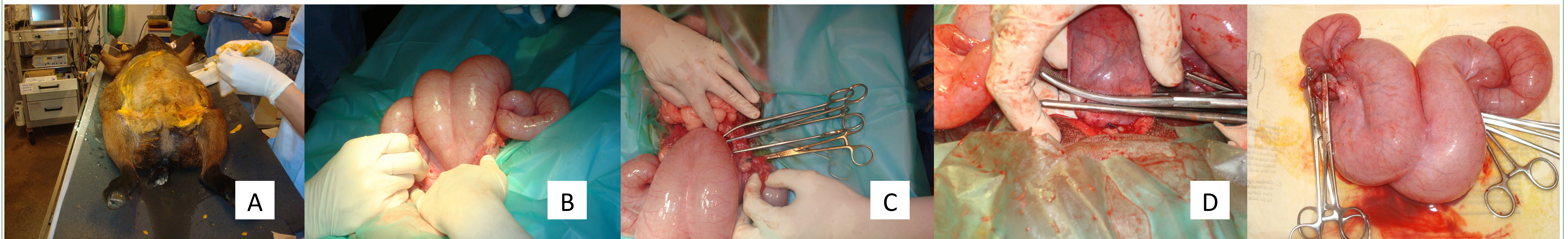
C - MEDICAL TREATMENT

Owners were reluctant to surgery because of potential anesthesia risk, a medical treatment (PGF2 α) associated with ruminal activator (Rumi C3[®]) to stimulate digestion and appetite and NSAID was performed.

No improvement during the hospitalization, the cervix was still closed and the uterus liquid became more echoic. In agreement with the owners an ovariectomy was performed under general anesthesia.

D - SURGERY: Ovariectomy

Induction was performed with xylazine (0,1 mg/kg IM) associated with a combination ketamine (11mg/kg IV) and propofol (3 to 5 mg/kg IV) and anesthesia was maintained with isoflurane. Lidocaine CRI and morphine were used for pain management, amoxicillin-clavulanic acid for antimicrobial and Hartman solution for fluid therapy.



Operating time: midline celiotomy on dorsal recumbency (A) was performed under general anesthesia. Distended uterus was externalized (B), a double ligation of the ovarian pedicle (C) was performed like usual recommendations in canine ovariectomy and a ligation of the cervix with a prior ligation of uterine vessels was done (D). Linea alba, subcutaneous tissue and skin were sutured using simple continuous pattern. For post-anesthetic recovery the goat was placed in sternal recumbency with heat lamp.

E - OUTCOME

The goat recovered quickly without postoperative complications. She was discharged one week after surgery with food management to reduce overweight.

Five months later, despite the fact that the goat exhibit lameness probably due to arthrosis, there is no complication regarding the ovariectomy. Culture of the uterine fluid was negative.

CONCLUSION

The number of pet goats presenting pseudopregnancy increased in the Clinic for Ruminants. Pseudopregnancy in dairy goats is not always treated because it can resolve itself by a uterus discharge (« cloudburst ») and it allows to extend lactation, but in non-mated goats it often recurs and may cause serious complications.

Like in buck or in dogs or cats, elective spay may be recommended in female pet goats when presenting signs of puberty.

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