Cervical Wedge Resection for Treatment of Transluminal Cervical Adhesions and Subsequent Pyometra: Three Clinical Cases

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Wedge resection of the cervix may enable treatment of pyometra and maintain fertility in the case of severe intraluminal adhesions of the cervix. Authors’ address: Texas A&M University, Large Animal Clinical Sciences, College Station, TX 77843; e-mail: carnold@cvm.tamu.edu. *Corresponding author. © 2011 AAEP.

1. Introduction
Cervical adhesions result from trauma at parturition or excessive manipulation of the cervix. In severe cases, adhesions may completely occlude the lumen, resulting in pyometra. Without cervical patency, mares with chronic pyometra may require ovariohysterectomy. The authors propose that resection of a portion of the cervix can restore the lumen, enabling treatment of pyometra, and allowing the production of foals through assisted reproductive techniques.

2. Materials and Methods
Surgery was performed with mares restrained in a set of stocks, using sedation and caudal epidural anesthesia. After an aseptic prep of the perineum, a vaginal speculum was placed. Using stay sutures, the cervix was retracted caudally into the vagina. A wedge-shaped portion of the cervix from the external os (~3 to 4 cm) to the internal os (~2 to 3 cm) was removed. A bivona uterine lavage catheter was placed to facilitate uterine irrigation and maintain cervical patency in the postoperative period.

3. Results
Surgery was performed as described above in three mares with extensive cervical adhesions. Healing of the cervix with a patent lumen occurred in all three mares. Follow-up was achieved for 133 to 623 days. Pyometra had resolved in all three mares, and two mares had produced viable embryos.

4. Discussion
Cervical wedge resection may provide an alternative to ovariohysterectomy for mares with pyometra caused by intraluminal adhesion of the cervix. Mares may still produce foals using assisted reproductive techniques.