

trunks which pass through the hiatus esophageus on the dorsal and ventral surfaces of the esophagus respectively. Once within the abdominal cavity these trunks branch freely to supply the parasympathetic innervation to all the compartments of the stomach and the intestines. The action of the parasympathetic system is to regulate motility of the gastrointestinal tract and inhibition of contraction of the pyloric sphincter and the reticulo-omasal orifice. Any combination of branches of the vagi may be injured by disease processes occurring near them, and there are a variety of possible resultant syndromes.

This case report has illustrated vagal nerve paralysis due to peritonitis with adhesions which was probably caused by a foreign body penetration from the reticulum. The result was atony of the gastrointestinal tract and probably incomplete pyloric stenosis.

REFERENCE

Clark, Carl H. 1953. Clinical signs of vagal nerve injuries in ruminants. *Vet. Med.* 48(10):389-391.

— Robert Billiar '58

5

Umbilical Hernias in Twin Calves. On October 10, 1957, twin Holstein heifer calves were admitted to Stange Memorial Clinic. Both calves had umbilical hernias of almost identical size, and from involvement and connective tissue deposition appeared to have been present about the same length of time. In fact, the hernias were probably present at birth and of hereditary origin.

The animals were prepared for surgery. Each calf was given approximately 30 ml. of pentobarbital sodium intravenously to carry it into surgical anesthesia. The abdomen in both cases was shaved and then disinfected with alcohol.

An elliptical incision was made in the skin around the umbilicus in each case. The hernial sacs were dissected free from the surrounding tissue.

In the first calf the peritoneal cavity was

opened. The peritoneum was sutured with Vetafil (synthetic suture material, Bengen and Co., Hannover, West Germany) using a continuous horizontal mattress stitch. The ring could not be drawn closed so plastic mesh was sutured over the opening. The subcutaneous tissue and skin were sutured with nylon using two sets of continuous blanket sutures, interrupted at mid-incision.

In the other heifer the sac was freed of its contents and the muscles were sutured together with No. 3 catgut using horizontal mattress sutures to close the ring. The subcutaneous tissue and skin were sutured with an interrupted mattress stitch using nylon.

No aftercare or antibiotics were required and the calves were sent home the day following surgery.

—Jim Ahern '58

6

Foreign Body in the Orbit of the Eye. On October 17, 1957, a 2-year old American Saddlebred gelding was admitted to the Stange Memorial Clinic. The only history given was "something wrong with the right eye". Examination showed a soft swelling in the area of the lower eyelid. A hard object could be palpated in this area. There was also considerable exudate present on the eye, but no break in the continuity of conjunctiva or skin.

Due to the hard object which could be palpated a foreign body was suspected. An X-ray was taken, but no foreign body could be seen on the radiograph.

For the next 3 days the area was treated by hot-packing. This seemed to reduce the exudation somewhat and also reduced the pain.

On October 21 the horse was given 3 cc. of promazine hydrochloride (50 mg./cc.) and restrained on its left side on the operating table. One hundred ml. of a solution containing 4.26 Gm. chloral hydrate, 0.96 Gm. pentobarbital, and 2.12 Gm. magnesium sulfate were given intravenously after the horse was on the table.