Clitoridectomy following vulvar laceration in a pregnant mare
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Treatment of vulvar trauma is common in equine practice; however, cases are likely underreported, particularly in pregnant mares. Vulvar or vaginal surgeries during pregnancy can predispose to ascendant infection or pregnancy loss. A 15 year old multiparous Arabian broodmare was presented at 93 days of gestation following a kick to the vulva. Hemorrhage and swelling of the vulva and clitoris were treated locally by placement of sutures and clitoral cerclage. Systemic treatments included anti-inflammatories and antibiotics. The mare displayed increasing pain and digital pulses over the next two days as the clitoris developed a large hematoma. Due to inability to control her pain, surgical clitoridectomy using electrocautery was performed under epidural anesthesia and systemic sedation. Post-operatively the mare immediately became comfortable. Transrectal evaluation of the fetoplacental unit demonstrated contraction of the uterus and position of the fetus at the cervix. Due to risk of ascendant infection and potential effects of systemic inflammation on pregnancy, the mare was treated with progesterone, antibiotics, and anti-inflammatories. Subsequently the uterus was found to be relaxed with normal uteroplacental thickness. The mare healed well postoperatively and foaled without complication or assistance at 325 days of gestation.

This case is an example of successful surgical treatment of a vulvar injury which was nonresponsive to medical management. Vulvovaginal surgeries in pregnant mares increase risk for ascendant infection and abortion. In this case, the mare foaled normally, supporting that surgical treatment of this case to manage pain was the best treatment for welfare of the mare and foal.

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