

## SUCCESSFUL REDUCTION OF CHOLELITHIASIS IN A HOLSTEIN COW

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Cholelithiasis is a condition rarely described in cattle. This affection has to be differentiated from other causes of colic, though the diagnosis could be difficult to achieve without ancillary examination, including ultrasonography, hepatic biochemistry or laparotomy. As few reports exist in cattle, this paper attempts to describe the history, clinical signs, treatments and outcome of a cow presenting cholelithiasis.

A pregnant 3.5 year-old high productive Holstein cow in the third month of lactation showed colic signs, anorexia and decreased milk production. Clinical examination revealed tachypnea, pyrexia and congestive mucous membranes. The abdomen was tense and painful; few intestinal sounds were audible at auscultation. Blood investigations revealed inflammation, cholestasis and leukocytosis with marked neutrophilia. Ultrasonography revealed a decreased peristaltic activity. A right-flank laparotomy showed a gallbladder filled with 20 firm and mobile 0.5 to 1 cm diameter masses. Digital palpation allowed cholelithotripsy through the cystic duct into the duodenum. Antibiotic and anti-inflammatory therapies were undertaken. After the surgery, the cow progressively recovered a normal appetite and pain signs decreased. Blood sample analyzed 10 days after the surgery still showed inflammation (in a lesser extent), and hepatic injury. Ten months after the surgery, the cow was healthy and 6-months-pregnant.

This case report suggests that cholelithiasis may be diagnosed and successfully treated in early stage of the disease in cattle, though this condition is rare. It also emphasizes importance of exploratory laparotomy as an ancillary exam and first step of surgical treatment in cattle.