Management of incised wound of trunk in Asian elephant (*Elephus maximus*)

Devendra N Podhade*, RK Jasutkar and Ranjeet Harne

Bondla Zoo, Goa Forest Department, Goa - India.

Abstract

Goa is a natural heritage and one of the richest biodiversity which attract foreign tourist. A male elephant has got cut on its trunk tip. They have asked for the help and discuss to what measures to be taken to stop bleeding. They were advised to keep elephant in the shade as it was raining heavily in these days. The respiration rate was about 12/min and body temperature of the elephant was 99°F. Elephant was continuously shaking tip of the trunk. The wound was washed with Normal Saline and KMNO₄ and painted with lotion of Povidine Iodine (Betadine). Surgical intervention was done with the help of interrupted nylon sutures. Betadine painted cotton pad was applied after the sutures. Elephant was sedated with xylazine hydrochloride by intramuscular injection. Intravenous fluid i.e. DNS 10 liter along with Inj. Quintas 80ml, Inj. Tribivet 30 ml and Dexasone 50 ml was given. Daily wound was cleaned with Normal Saline and KMNO₄ and painted with lotion of Povidine Iodine (Betadine) and Placentrax gel for 45 days. Wound was completely healed up in a period of 45 days.

Keywords: Xylazine hydrochloride, incised wound, trunk, Asian elephant

Introduction

Goa is located on the western coast of India in the coastal belt known as "Tourist Paradise". It is also a natural heritage and one of the richest biodiversity which attract foreign tourist. Now in these days, private spice plantations are keeping elephant for elephant ride, elephant shower, elephant show, elephant wash and swim with elephant. Trunk of elephant is used for number of reasons (Martin and Niemtiz, 2003) and also used for a variety of sensory, social and mechanical purposes (Hart et al., 2001; Rees, 2002; Meyer et al., 2008). A male elephant has got cut on its trunk tip. It was continuously bleeding as it supplied with minor numerous artery and vein. Personal from spice plantation asked for the help and discuss to what measures to be taken to stop bleeding. They were advised to keep elephant in the shade as it was raining heavily in these days.

Clinical signs

On clinical examination, respiration rate was about 12/min and body temperature of the elephant was 99°F. Elephant was continuously shaking tip of the trunk. Incised wound was seen at its tip of trunk. Elephant was restless and try to hit on the walls of the room.

Treatment

The wound was washed with Normal Saline and KMNO₄ and painted with lotion of Povidine Iodine (Betadine). Local area was sedated with the help of Lignocaine along with Adrenaline (Tahira Industries Private Limited) 10 ml. Surgical intervention was done with the help of interrupted nylon sutures. Betadine painted cotton pad was applied after the sutures. Elephant was sedated with xylazine hydrochloride by intramuscular injection. Elephant went under sedation and muscular relaxation achieved after 5 minutes. Intravenous fluid i.e. DNS (Nirma Pharmaceuticals Ltd) 10 liter along with Inj. Quintas (Intas Pharmaceuticals Ltd) 80ml, Inj. Tribivet (Intas Pharmaceuticals Ltd) 30 ml and Dexasone (Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd) 50 ml was given.

Postoperative care

Daily wound was cleaned with Normal Saline and KMNO₄ and painted with lotion of Povidine Iodine (Betadine) for 45 days. Placentrax gel was applied twice daily for 45 days. Trunk of elephant was highly massive with over 100,000 muscle units (Firyal and Naureen, 2007) and wound was completely healed up in a period of 45 days.
Acknowledgement

Authors are thankful to Director, Bondla Zoo, for giving an opportunity to treat the elephant.

Fig 1: Local area sedated with the help of Interrupted sutures with the help of catgut Lignocaine along with Adrenaline and nylon on the tip trunk

References