

# Aural Hematoma in Domestic Rabbit (*Oryctologos Cunicuulus*) – A Case Report

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**Abstract**— A case of aural haematoma in one year old female domestic rabbit (*Oryctologos cunicuulus*) and its successful surgical management has been reported.

**Keywords**— Aural haematoma; domestic rabbit (*Oryctologos cunicuulus*).

## I. INTRODUCTION

**A**n aural hematoma is a collection of blood or serum within the cartilage plate of the pinna which presents as the fluctuant, fluid-filled swelling(s) on the concave surface of one or both pinna (Fossum, 2000). Aural hematomas can be caused by direct damage (eg, bite wounds, vehicular trauma) but are more common from head shaking and ear scratching associated with otitis externa or atopy (Bretag *et al.*, 2011). In present paper a successful surgical management of aural hematoma in a domestic rabbit is reported.

## II. HISTORY & CLINICAL SIGNS

A one year old female domestic rabbit was presented to the Department of Veterinary Surgery and Radiology, College of Veterinary Science, Tirupati, with a history of swollen right ear since one week (Fig. 1). Initially it was treated with local Vet, but no response was noticed. On physical examination soft fluctuating swelling was noticed at medial side of ear. On aspiration blood mixed fluid was noticed and it was diagnosed as aural hematoma and decided for surgical drainage.

## III. TREATMENT & DISCUSSION

Aseptic preparation of rabbit was performed by clipping at both sides (convex and concave) of the affected ear and shaving hair after a good moisturising the region with antiseptic agent. It was anaesthetized with Xylazine Hydrochloride @ 3 mg/kg and Ketamin Hydrochloride @ 30 mg/kg body weight intramuscularly. Then rabbit was restrained with the affected ear on top and applied sterile swab in the external orifice of the ear to prevent overflow of othematoma content in the ear canal. A linear incision was made on the haematoma starting from the base of the ear and going to the top of the ear, by moderate pressure to avoid sectioning the skin on the convex side (external) of pinna. The hematoma was drained and the inner lining of the skin and fibrin deposits on the cartilage was removed. About 1-2 mm thickens skin flap was removed from the edges of the incision to create a gap between the edges of skin. After removal of the othematoma contents like debris, clots and tissue fluids the cavity was lavaged with saline and povidone iodine. Series of through and through interrupted mattress sutures using no 2/0

silk were placed parallel to the incision with knots on the convex surface of the ear. Postoperatively, Cefpodoxime @ 20 mg/kg body weight was administered for 5 days orally; surgical wound was dressed regularly with Povidone iodine ointment and sutures were removed on 10th post operative day. The animal made uneventful recovery with no recurrence over a period of three months. Ear hematomas occur much more commonly in dogs than in cats; they are generally the result of trauma to the ear flap, either from an injury or from the dog scratching at the ear (Eyarefe *et al.*, 2013). Auricular hematoma(othematoma) is a traumatic collection located on the convex face of the auricular pinna, which occurs in most breeds of dogs regardless of age, sex, general status. Rabbits are mostly affected by *Sarcoptes cunicui*, it will affect ear resulting in ear canker, some time ear canker may predisposes for aural hematoma (Manjunatha *et al.*, 2014).



Fig. 1. Swollen right ear – Rabbit.

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