

Jorgensen Laboratories, Inc.

Loveland, Colorado 80538

USE OF THE BUHNER NEEDLE AND TAPE IN PROLAPSE REPAIR

Suture placed according to the Buhner method will insure a partial closure of the vagina and prevent the recurrence of vaginal or uterine prolapses.

The Buhner needle (JorVet #J-26) is a 12" stainless instrument with a slightly curved tip and large eye in the cutting end. The perivaginal tape (JorVet #J-25) is highly recommended for use in conjunction with the Buhner needle. This tape is a special woven $\frac{1}{4}$ " nylon in a 2 layered weave that does not cut or saw tissue like regular umbilical tape. It is very tissue compatible, thus reducing the chances for suture reaction.



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Procedure

1. Correctly reduce the prolapse into its anatomical position and correct any underlying cause, i.e. hypocalcemia.
2. A 12-inch piece of tape is placed on a clean towel and antibiotic ointment is placed along the full length. The needle should be autoclaved or soaked in disinfectant before use.
3. Gently clean and disinfect the vulva.
4. The disinfected needle *without* the tape is inserted about 1" below the vulva lips and $\frac{1}{2}$ " off the mid-line. The needle is pushed upward along the lateral margin of the vulva close to the hairline, to a depth of $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Then the needle is allowed to surface 1" above the vulva on the midline.
5. The tape is now threaded through the needle eye and half the tape is retracted down with the needle and pulled out the original opening. The tape is removed from the needle. The needle is then pushed up the other side in similar fashion and surfaced through the same opening on the dorsal commissure. The needle is rethreaded and the remaining tape is pulled down. The two tape ends that now protrude below the vulva lip are tied in a square knot, tight enough to allow 4 fingers to be inserted into the vagina. The suture tape should be left in long enough for easy removal in a few days by the veterinarian or herdsman.

In parturient vaginal prolapses the animal must be supervised closely so the calf is not allowed to tear out the sutures upon delivery.

For suturing sheep and pigs the Gerlach needle 6" (JorVet #J-26G) is recommended.

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