

## DERMOID CYST IN SHEEP - A CASE REPORT

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Dermoid cyst is a rare non-neoplastic skin abnormality that is characterized by a focal duplication of the whole dermatologic structure, including skin and associated structures. A small pore can connect the interior of the cyst to the cutaneous surface and hair can protrude from that opening.

**Objectives:** The aim of this case report is to describe the finding of a dermoid cyst in a sheep, treated by surgical excision.

**Materials and methods:** A Santa Ignez nine month ewe was referred to the Large Animal Hospital of the Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro - UFRRJ. The owner brought her in due to a non healing lesion at the distal aspect of the left front leg. During the physical exam the ewe was alert, in a good condition score, and weighed 30 kg. Clinical parameters: heart and respiratory frequency, mucous membrane color, rectal temperature and ruminal motility were all normal. The ewe presented a grade I LAMENESS from the affected limb. The lesion had a diameter of 1 cm, and was 5 cm deep, and a swollen area was found around the lesion. There was a mucous secretion coming from the lesion and hair protruding out of the opening. Cleaning of the lesion was performed and hair was recovered from the cavity lavage. An ultra sound of the region 68 was performed and no connection to any tissues was found. Under local anesthesia (5 ml of 2% lidocaine), a skin and subcutaneous fusiform incision was done around the lesion and a tubular structure was visualized. Tissue was separated along its tract and a saccular structure with one cm of diameter with hardened consistency was revealed. The procedure was completed with the excision of the tissue mass and its transfer to a container with formalin at 10%.

**Results:** Histopathologic analysis revealed a central area composed of hair and keratin, resulting from desquamation of squamous stratified epithelium where hair follicles and sebaceous glands were presented. No signs of malignancy were found. Diagnosis was of a dermoid cyst.

**Conclusions:** The dermoid cyst although benign should not be underestimated. It is always important to perform differential diagnosis clinically or pathologically. In the current case the lesion characteristics as well as the histopathologic findings were conclusive for the diagnosis.