

Clinical quiz

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You are investigating a fertility problem for a client who has an elongated calving to first service interval of 95 days. On further investigation, you identify that the underlying problem is that over 50% of cows are not being detected in heat until more than 80 days after calving calls. You decide to investigate 10 cows that have been calved for more than 60 days and not been detected in heat. Five of them have a purulent vaginal discharge, with over 50% pus by volume. A typical case is shown in Fig. 1.



Fig. 1.

QUESTIONS

- 1. What is the most likely cause of this discharge:**
 - a. Endometritis
 - b. Puerperal metritis
 - c. Pyometra
 - d. Pyelonephritis
 - e. Acute metritis
- 2. What other signs would be seen in a cow with endometritis:**
 - a. Systemic illness
 - b. Bloody, smelly discharge
 - c. Inappetance
 - d. Reduced milk production
 - e. All of the above
- 3. Which of these is the most effective treatment:**
 - a. Systemic antibiotics
 - b. Intrauterine antibiotics
 - c. Systemic PGF2 α
 - d. Intrauterine PGF2 α
 - e. b or c depending on stage of oestrous cycle
- 4. Which of these are likely underlying causes of the high rate of endometritis:**
 - a. Under-nutrition
 - b. High levels of retained fetal membranes
 - c. Increased incidence of hypocalcaemia
 - d. Increased dystocia rates
 - e. All of the above
- 5. When is the best time to treat endometritis**
 - a. Immediately post-calving
 - b. In cows that have been found to be not pregnant
 - c. After routine examination seven days post-calving
 - d. Routine examination 20 days post-calving
 - e. Routine examination 10 days before end of voluntary waiting period