

ALTERED INTERESTRUS INTERVALS FOLLOWING CLINICAL MASTITIS IN DAIRY CATTLE

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SUMMARY

Clinical mastitis and reproductive records from two southern California dairy herds were used in a cross-sectional study to determine the risk of an altered interestrus interval following clinical mastitis. An altered interestrus interval was defined as cycles occurring at either less than 18 day or more than 24 day intervals. The data were stratified by herd to assess herd differences and by cow parity to assess confounding. The predominant pathogen isolated from cases of mastitis in Herd 1 was Staphylococcus aureus, whereas the predominant pathogens in Herd 2 were gram-negative isolates. Cows in Herd 1 in which coliforms were cultured from mastitic milk were excluded in the analysis for comparison to Herd 2. In Herd 1, cows with clinical mastitis were less likely to have an altered interestrus interval (Relative Risk [RR]=0.9; 95% Confidence Interval [CI]=0.6,1.6) than herdmates without clinical mastitis. However, cows in Herd 2 were almost two times more likely to have an altered interestrus interval following an episode of clinical mastitis compared to herdmates without clinical mastitis (RR=1.6;95% CI=1.3,2.0). This preliminary field evidence should be followed by prospective studies of luteal function after clinical coliform mastitis.