

Metritis

Also Called: postpartum septic metritis



Uterine discharge from cow with metritis.

Affecting: cows of all ages

Occurrence: 2-4 days postpartum; common in large herds, with dystocia, retained placenta, and poor conditioning

Signs: foul uterine discharge; toxemia; retention of fetal membranes; decreased milk production; elevated temperature; elevated heart rate (96-120 beats/min.); increase in respiratory rate; diarrhea; dehydration

Cause: a mix of bacteria: *Actinomyces pyogenes*, *Bacteroides* spp., *Fusobacterium necrophorum*, *E. coli*, *Staphylococcus* spp., *Streptococcus* spp., *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Proteus* spp., *Clostridium* spp.

Diagnosis: signs; rectal palpation of uterus to confirm involution; vaginal palpation for detection of retained placenta; leukopenia; neutropenia; vaginal and uterine samples to examine for above mentioned bacteria; ketonuria; liver function tests; Post mortem: edema of the uterus, hemorrhages of the uterine wall, fatty, enlarged liver, degeneration of heart muscle and kidneys

Remedy: removal of placenta; antimicrobials (oxytetracycline, sulfonamides or penicillin) over several days; Severe cases: IV fluids, electrolytes; intrauterine oxytetracycline; ecbolic drugs (i.e. prostaglandins) to stimulate uterine contractions

Prevention: good nutrition; cleanliness in calving pen

Also Consider: toxemia, milk fever, hardware disease, staphylococcal mastitis