

**Uterine diseases during the post partum period represent one of the most important reasons for reproductive failure in dairy cows.**

- Cows diagnosed with clinical endometritis usually do not get inseminated and therefore have their calving insemination interval extended. This ultimately leads to an excessive calving interval and lower pregnancy rate in the herd.
- Cows not diagnosed (either misdiagnosed or suffering from subclinical endometritis), even if inseminated, usually show much lower conception rates and consequently take more time to get pregnant. This in turn contributes to an extended calving interval and low herd pregnancy rates.

Let's check whether endometritis represents an important problem in your herd	Yes	No
My fresh cows are routinely checked for the progress of uterine involution within the first week of calving.		
The average incidence of metritis (discharge within 10 days post calving) in my herd is below 10% of all fresh cows.		
I rarely have cows suffering from toxic metritis with clinical illness within the first 5 days off calving.		
The average incidence of endometritis (cows with purulent discharge beyond 2 weeks post calving) is below 15% of all fresh cows.		
My cows are routinely checked for the condition of their reproductive tract between 3 weeks of calving and the start of breeding.		
I rarely see cows showing flecks of pus or discharge after service/AI.		

If the majority of your answers are negative, endometritis may contribute to the suboptimal reproductive performance of your cows. Go to the next page to evaluate the risk factors predisposing your cows to endometritis.

**Periparturient complications as well as impaired function of the immune system associated with nutritional deficiencies and metabolic diseases make high producing dairy cows especially prone to uterine infections in later post partum period.**

Evaluation of risk factors for uterine diseases	Yes	No
I am using “ease-of-calving” as one of the bull selection criteria when purchasing semen for my herd.		
Incidence of calving difficulties needing assistance in my herd is below 10%.		
Calving assistance involving manipulation inside the cow’s reproductive tract is carried out by veterinarian only.		
Calving induction with prostaglandins is used only in exceptional cases.		
The incidence of retained placenta in my herd is below 5%.		
The incidence of stillbirth in my herd is below 2%.		
I normally have less than 10% of cows in BCS above 3.5 at drying off.		
I normally have less than 10% cows in BCS below 2.5 at calving.		

	Yes	No
The incidence of milk fever in my herd is below 5% during the first 60 days pp.		
The incidence of ketosis in my herd is below 5% during the first 60 days pp.		
I do not administer a uterine lavage with disinfectants in cows with purulent discharge.		

**References:**

Le Blanc, Vet J 2008;176:102-4; Sheldon et al., Bio Rep 2009;81:1025-32; Potter et al., Theriogenology 2010;74:127-34; Tsousis et al., J vet Sci 2009;337-341