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Associations between serum calcium concentration and postpartum health and reproductive performance in dairy cows

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Highlights

- Serum calcium after calving correlates with health and resumption of cyclicity.
- High calcium is associated with fewer retained placentas and clinical endometritis.
- High calcium is also associated with earlier resumption of postpartum cyclicity.
- High calcium is associated with high concentrations of TCH, albumin and glucose.

ABSTRACT

In the present study, the aim was to evaluate the associations between serum calcium concentration after calving and serum metabolites, postpartum disorders, and reproductive performance in dairy cows. Blood samples were collected from 200 Holstein cows immediately and 1, 2, 4, 6, and 8 weeks after calving to measure serum metabolites and progesterone concentrations. Cows were divided into three groups on the basis of the mean serum calcium concentration after calving: a Low group (<7.9 mg/dL, n = 52), a Moderate group (7.9–9.6 mg/dL, n = 100), and a High group (≥ 9.7 mg/dL, n = 48). Total cholesterol

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