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Assessment of equine alpha-fetoprotein levels in mares and newborn foals in the periparturient period

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Highlights

- only three studies regarding AFP values in horses have been published previously
- alpha-fetoprotein values in the peripartal and intrapartal period have not been investigated so far
- maternal age, gestational age and seasonality significantly affected AFP levels in mares
- the lowest levels of AFP could be measured in umbilical blood and amniotic fluid samples
- AFP as a possible diagnostic tool of fetal well-being should be further investigated