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Effect of equine chorionic gonadotropin administration on day 8 post-partum on ovarian follicular development, uterine health and uterine involution in lactating dairy cows

E. Rojas Canadas, P. Lonergan, S.T. Butler

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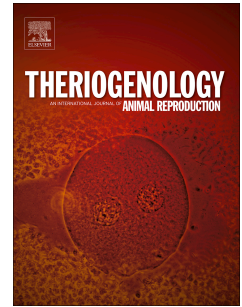
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1 **Effect of equine chorionic gonadotropin administration on day 8 post-partum on**
2 **ovarian follicular development, uterine health and uterine involution in lactating**
3 **dairy cows**

4 E. Rojas Canadas^{1,2}, P. Lonergan² and S.T. Butler¹

5 ¹*Animal and Grassland Research and Innovation Centre, Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy,*
6 *Co. Cork, Ireland*

7 ²*School of Agriculture and Food Science, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4,*
8 *Ireland*

9 * Corresponding author. Tel.: + 353E-mail address: stephen.butler@teagasc.ie
10 (S.T. Butler).

11 **ABSTRACT**

12 The objective was to evaluate the effect of equine chorionic gonadotropin (eCG)
13 injection on day 8 postpartum on ovarian cyclicity, uterine health and uterine involution
14 in lactating dairy cows. Lactating dairy cows [n = 34, (21 primiparous and 13
15 multiparous)] were enrolled in the study. Animals were stratified by calving date, parity
16 and BCS, and randomly assigned to either control (CON n = 18) or eCG treatments (n =
17 16). On day 8 ± 0.9 post-partum (pp), eCG treatment cows received a 2 ml i.m. injection
18 (500 IU) of eCG and control treatment cows received a 2 ml i.m. injection of 0.9 %
19 sodium chloride. Ovaries were examined by transrectal ultrasound every second day
20 from day 10 pp until ovulation or regression of the first follicle wave, and the diameter
21 of the dominant follicle was recorded at each exam. Ultrasound exams were conducted
22 on days 21, 28, 35 and 42 pp to measure the diameter of the cervix and the uterine
23 horns. Vaginal discharge score (VDS) was recorded on a 1 to 5 scale on days 14, 21, 28,

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