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perspective

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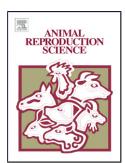
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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Sperm quality assays: How good are they? The horse perspective Charles C. Love DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACT

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Highlights

• stallion, bull, flow cytometry, sperm quality assay, fertility

Abstract

Sperm quality assays have increased in number in the last 10 years. Most of these assays are flow cytometry based in application and are modified from assays that have been developed to measure somatic cell function. The goal of any sperm quality assay should be to advance the clinicians/researchers understanding of sperm cell function and the relationship to fertility. While these assays appear to measure somatic cell-like functions in sperm there tends to be little understanding how the results of these assays relate to fertility.

1. Introduction

The development of in vitro sperm quality assays has grown dramatically in the last 10-20 years. Historically, sperm quality was evaluated primarily using the concept of sperm motility as viewed under a light microscope. Sperm motility was incorporated as part of the bull breeding soundness examination and included the measure of gross motility and individual motility after adding a diluent to visualize the sperm tracts of

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