



Metritis causes long term decreases in the milk production of multiparous Holstein dairy cows

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Background: Metritis, an infection of the uterus, is one of the most common diseases in dairy cows during early lactation. Although metritis is known to reduce milk production during the disease, no work to date has investigated its long term effects.

Aim: To determine how metritis influences milk yields in dairy.

Methodology:

- Milk production and metritis data were compiled from two experiments. Metritis was diagnosed using vaginal discharge scores.
- Milk yields were analyzed in 6 week intervals, with multiparous (MP) and primiparous (PP) cows considered separately.
- Estimates of the effects of disease on yield may vary depending on the inclusion of animals that are culled during that lactation. We thus analyzed the results with and without culls.

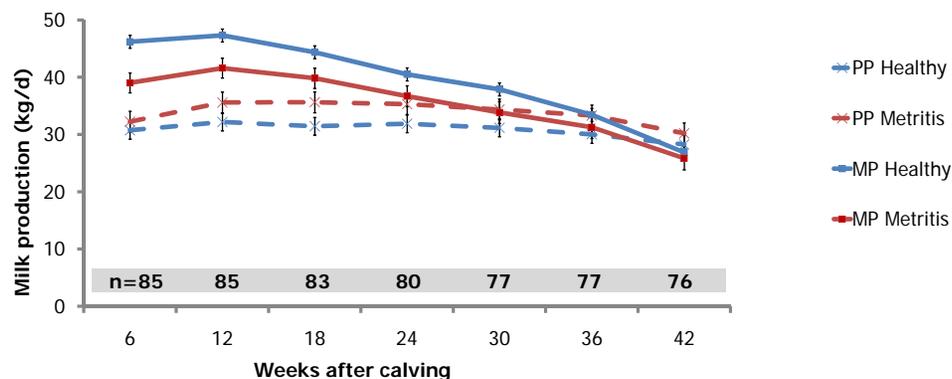


Healthy discharge



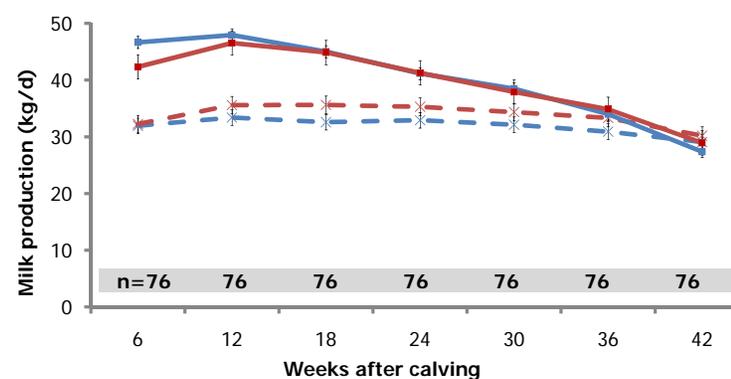
Metritis

Milk Production: Including Culls



All data included: Milk yield was lower for the first 24 weeks of lactation for metritic vs. healthy multiparous cows.

Milk Production: Excluding Culls



Only survivors included: Milk yield was lower for metritic vs. healthy cows, but only for the first 6 weeks of lactation.

	Primiparous		Multiparous	
	Healthy	Metritic	Healthy	Metritic
Total number of cows	14	10	43	18
Number culled	3	0	8	8
Percentage culled	21%	0%	19%	44%

- Multiparous cows with metritis in early lactation have both acute and long term reductions in milk yield compared to healthy cows.
- Long-term differences in milk production are driven by the inclusion of cows that are culled.