

## Cows with Cystic Ovaries Conceive Normally to Ovsynch and Timed A.I.

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**Take Home Message:** ∪ Ovsynch/timed A.I. is an effective way to get cystic cows pregnant. ∪ Contrary to popular belief, the physical presence of an ovarian cyst does not interfere with pregnancy establishment in Holstein cows.

Single or repeated injections of gonadotropin releasing hormone (GnRH), luteinizing hormone (LH) or human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) are recommended treatments for cystic ovarian condition (follicular cysts), with varying degrees of success. The objective of this investigation was to determine conception rates in cystic cows following Ovsynch and timed A.I. Eighteen Holstein cows (>50 d after calving), diagnosed by a veterinarian as having one or more follicular cysts, were assigned to receive GnRH (2 mL Fertiline, Vetoquinol Inc.), followed 7d later by PGF (5 mL Lutalyse, Pharmacia-Upjohn). Two days after Lutalyse, cows received a second injection of Fertiline (2 mL) and were inseminated, approximately 16h later, without heat detection. Ovaries were scanned by ultrasound on each treatment day and also 7d after A.I. Pregnancy diagnosis was performed 32d after A.I. by ultrasound. ∪ The average diameter of the cyst was 34 mm. ∪ Two cows (11%) ovulated the cyst whereas 8 cows (44%) ovulated another follicle in response to the first GnRH treatment. ∪ A new dominant follicle developed in response to the first GnRH treatment in all 18 (100%) cows. ∪ Only 17 cows were available for follow-up after insemination. ∪ Fifteen (88%) of the 17 cows ovulated the newly developed dominant follicle in response to the second GnRH treatment and a new CL was detected 7d after A.I. ∪ Seven cows (41%) conceived to the timed A.I. ∪ In 35% of the cows diagnosed pregnant, the follicular cyst was still present at the time of pregnancy diagnosis. *Thanks to Drs. Steve Radostits and Pavol Zalkovic for their cooperation and assistance during this investigation.*