

Effect of the breeder calving detection on C-section complications in Belgian blue cattle breed.

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Caesarean section (c-section) is a very common surgery in cattle. In Belgian blue cattle breed, the first indication is the fetomaternal disproportion. In order to prevent dystocia, early elective C-section is systematically performed in this breed (96 %).

Different methods are used to detect early calving. In order to evaluate the different methods and their impact on c-section complications, a survey of 34 questions answered by 73 breeders was conducted in Wallonia.

It appears that 26,03 % of farmers monitor ligamentous laxity, 6,85 % monitor decrease of rectal temperature and 58,90 % perform both. Vaginal probe (4,11 %) and surveillance camera (4,11 %) are not frequently used. The monitoring of rectal temperature and ligamentous laxity are reliable and not expensive comparatively to the automated method. Seventy five percent evaluate cervix dilatation by vaginal palpation. The vaginal palpation is performed with clean disposable gloves (58,93 %) or multiple used gloves (3,85 %), others farmers perform vaginal search with a bare hand with (23,21 %) or without (14,07 %) disinfection. Vaginal palpation is significantly associated with more complications than the others technics. The most frequents are retained foetal membranes (77,42 %), surgical abscesses (75 %) and peritonitis (66,67 %). Breeders performing a vaginal palpation using gloves have more complications than those using bare hand after disinfection.

We herein demonstrate that vaginal palpation is the most frequent technic to evaluate calving and is often associated with postoperative complications du to the lack of hand hygiene.

