



## O muco cervical não é eficiente em predizer o momento da ovulação em ovelhas Santa Inês sincronizadas ao estro

*Cervical mucus is not efficient to predict the ovulation time in of Santa Ines ewes synchronized to estrus*

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In goats, it has been demonstrated that cervical mucus evaluation is able to predict the time of ovulation after estrous hormonal synchronization, which is efficient in determining the ideal time of Artificial Insemination (Fonseca et al., 2017. *Reprod Biol*; 17:363-369). However, in sheep, this parameter is not established in the literature. The study was conducted in Coronel Pacheco (latitude 21°33' S and longitude 43°16' W), MG, Brazil. Eleven pluriparous crossbred ewes averaging three years old, raised under intensive system were used. Body weight was on average  $53 \pm 10$  kg, and body condition (1-5 scale) was  $3.2 \pm 0.6$ . All animals received a progesterone releasing device containing 0.3 g progesterone (Eazi-Breed CIDR<sup>®</sup>, Pfizer Animal Health, São Paulo, Brazil) for six days, and 24 h before its removal, 30 µg d-cloprostenol (Prolise<sup>®</sup>, Syntex, Buenos Aires, Argentina) and 200 IU eCG (Novormon<sup>®</sup> 5000, Syntex) i.m. were administered. After device removal, every 12 h until detection of ovulation, estrus was monitored with the use of rams; cervical mucus by the use of Collin speculum, and follicular dynamic by ultrasonography. Cervical mucus was classified as: 0) without cervical mucus; 1) Crystalline, mucus completely translucent, 2) Crystalline/Striated, mucus presents some opacity but not stretch marks; 3) Striated, evident stretch marks within crystalline areas; 4) Striated/Caseous, stretch marks coalesce and no visible translucent areas; and 5) Caseous, mucus appears a caseous mass with evident flocculation. The frequency of different mucus, ranging from 0 to 5 was respectively: 60 h (91; 9; 0; 0; 0 and 0%); 48 h (27; 55; 18; 0; 0 and 0%); 36 h (9; 27; 64; 0; 0 and 0%); 24 h (0; 18; 73; 9; 0 and 0%); 12 h before (0; 9; 36; 45; 9 and 0%) and at ovulation (0; 0; 27; 36; 36 and 0%). It is important to highlight that at 12 h before ovulation, ewes presented scores between 1 and 4, and at the time of ovulation, scores from 2 to 4, not being precise to determine the time of ovulation. These data are different from that reported in goats, i.e., the standardization of mucus score 3 or 4 at the time of ovulation. It may be concluded that the use of cervical mucus is alone not an efficient parameter to detect the time of ovulation in sheep.

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**Palavras-chave:** Inseminação Artificial, ultrassonografia, dinâmica folicular.