

FERTILITY CONTROL TOOLBOX

Method	Brandname	Stage	Results	Implications - Concerns	Publications
<b>Immuno-contraception</b>					
pZP	ZonaStat-H	numerous studies (especially Assateague Isl.); used in the field; EPA registered	4 injections given in 2-4 week intervals + 6-10 months after last injection (n=10) resulted in 10-20% pregnancy rates	minimum of 2 inoculations is required in horses in order to raise sufficiently high antibody titers for a minimum of 6 months; horses may become difficult to access after numerous treatments	Liu et al. (1989) J Reprod Fertil 85:19-28
			2 injections (n=8) resulted in pregnancy rates of 12%; 3 injections (n=18) resulted in pregnancy rates of 0% compared to 45% for untreated mares (n=11)	booster doses result in a more robust immune response	Kirkpatrick et al. (1990) Wildl Soc Bull 18:326-330
			3 years of consecutive treatments (n=10) is >90% effective in preventing pregnancy compared to a 55% pregnancy rate in untreated mares (n=20)	prolonged treatment may interfere with ovarian function (based on depressed estrogen secretion)	Kirkpatrick et al. (1992) J Reprod Fertil 94:437-444
			treatment for 1-2 years (n=11), >3 years (n=19), or no treatment (n=42) resulted in significant (p<0.05) differences in longevity, with contracepted mares living longer	treated mares are healthier & live longer because they don't have to give birth & lactate; a consideration for population modeling	Kirkpatrick et al. (2007) Zoo Biol 26:237-244
	SpayVac	3 studies completed; EPA registration underway	single injection (n=12) resulted in pregnancy rates of 0, 17, 17 & 17% compared to 75, 75, 88 & 100% for controls (n=8) 1-4 years post-vaccination, respectively	initial trial with promising results for single injection (no boosters); study ended after year 4	Killian et al. (2008) Wildl Res 35:103-115
			3-4 months post-single injection (n=14) 93% of mares stopped cycling based on lower serum progesterone (p<0.025) & smaller ovaries (p<0.001) compared to controls (n=7)	originally designed as a safety trial requested by BLM; demonstrated that pZP may act in different ways (not just antibody-binding) - confirmed by Joone et al. (2017) Equine Vet J 49:189-195 in pony mares using ZonaStat	Bechert et al. (2013) J Wildl Manage 77:1386-1400
			single injection (n=30) resulted in foaling rates of 13, 47 & 43% compared to 100, 98 & 100% in controls 1-3 years post-vaccination, respectively (SpayVac VacciMax formulation)	vaccinations were given in rump, unlike Killian et al. (2008) & Bechert et al. (2013) studies, which administered vaccines in the neck closer to major lymph nodes	Roelle et al. (2017) Wildl Soc Bull 41:107-115 Bechert & Fraker (2018) Human-Wildl Interact 12:117-130
			IgG1 antibodies higher in infertile treated mares, especially IgG4/7 (p<0.05), compared to fertile treated mares from Roelle study	IgG4/7 provides long-lasting immunity compared to other IgG isotypes	Bechert et al. (2018) Theriogenology 121:168-174
	PZP-22	3 studies completed	injections of pZP + PLGA copolymer pellets generated antibody titers similar to ZonaStat + booster at 3-4 weeks; titers remained elevated for almost 11 months	pellets eliminated the need for a booster 3-4 weeks after initial vaccination with ZonaStat	Liu et al. (2005) Reproduction 129:181-190
			injections of pZP + QS-21 pellets (n=96) resulted in fertility rates of 6, 14, 32, and 48% for 1-4 years post-injection, respectively compared to 54% for untreated mares	contraceptive efficacy was effective for two breeding seasons (22 months post-injection)	Turner et al. (2007) J Wildl Manage 71:662-667
			remote dart injection of 100 µg pZP vaccine + 450 µg pZP in QA pellet resulted in foaling rates of 12 & 35% (n=17) compared to 56 & 54% in untreated mares (n=27, 26); significant for 1st year	remote delivery is effective for 1 year	Carey et al. (2019) Wildl Res 46:713-718
GnRH	GonaCon	3 studies completed; EPA registered	single injection with 1800 ug GnRH (n=11) or 2800 ug GnRH (n=4) resulted in pregnancy rates of 7, 36, 43, and 57% compared to 75, 75, 88 & 100% for controls (n=8) 1-4 years post-vaccination, respectively	AdjuVac was the adjuvant (same as for the SpayVac used in this study); GnRH is smaller than pZP so it may be harder to elicit an immune response	Killian et al. (2008) Wildl Res 35:103-115
			single injection (n=29) resulted in foaling rates of 64% and 69% compared to controls during 2 and 3 years post-vax, respectively		Baker et al. (2017) Proc 8th Intl Conf Wildl Fertil Control
			single injection (n=26 to 28) resulted in foaling rates of 46, 56 and 69% compared to 73, 78 & 67% for controls (n=26 to 27) during 2-4 years post-vaccination, respectively -- a booster 4 years later (n=25) resulted in foaling rates of 0 and 16% compared to 84% for controls 1-2 years post-vaccination, respectively	boosters have a very positive impact on vaccine efficacy	Baker et al. (2018) PLOS One 13(7): e0201570

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BMP-15 & GDF-9	n/a	1 study completed & 1 underway; experimental	vaccination with either GDF-9 or BMP-15 + boosters at 6, 12 and 18 weeks had no effect on ovulation for GDF-9 (n=10) but was less (p=0.02) for BMP-15 (n=10)	GDF-9 decreased average follicle size & altered estrous behavior; BMP-15 decreased average follicle size, altered estrous behavior & decreased number of ovulations	Davis et al. (2018) Ani Reprod Sci 192:69-77
			treated (n=16) and control (n=16) mares will be naturally bred to test contraceptive efficacy for 3 years after a single injection of BMP-15/GDF-9 in liposomes made by SpayVac-for-Wildlife	results will demonstrate actual contraceptive efficacy	
<b>Hormone Implants</b>					
estradiol and/or progesterone in silastic rods	n/a	experimental	silastic rods containing ethinylestradiol, estradiol-17 $\beta$ , or progesterone were implanted into feral mares ranging from 4-10 years old; fertility rates were 12-22%; mares that were pregnant when treated carried their pregnancies to term	implanting silastic rods is more invasive than simple inoculations; there is some, albeit limited, potential that the hormones could enter the food chain if treated mares are killed and eaten by predators and scavengers	Plotka et al. (1992) J Wildl Dis 28:255-262 Eagle et al. (1992) Wildl Soc Bull 20:211-216
testosterone propionate	n/a	experimental	foal counts for control bands averaged 0.371 foals per mare, whereas for treated bands (n=10) the average was 0.066	must be hand-injected because of viscosity, which requires immobilization of stallions	Kirkpatrick et al. (1982) J Equine Vet Sci 2(4):114-118
<b>Surgical</b>					
ovariectomy	n/a	used experimentally and once in the field	ovariectomized by colpotomy (n=102) in 2010-11; 8 died pre-release; release occurred 3-8 days post-procedure; aerial surveys done post-release	mares & stallions were treated over an 8-year time period with removals conducted at the same time, making it difficult to evaluate specific treatment effects	Collins & Kasbohm (2017) J Wildl Manage 81(2):289-296
castration	n/a	used with domestic horses	vasectomized (n=137), chemically epididymectomized (n=126), castrated (n=5); aerial surveys done post-release	peak foaling rates for Sheldon (study site) were 11.4, 5.4, 5.4 (avg 7.4) compared to Massacre Lake HMA 13.0, 3.3, 6.5 (avg 7.6) for 2010, 2011, 2014	(same study)
<b>Physical</b>					
IUD	n/a	used experimentally	silastic O-ring-shaped IUDs (n=6) resulted in pregnancy rate of 0% compared to 100% for controls (n=12) for 1 year; IUD fell out of 1 treated mare prior to removal in year 2	contraceptive efficacy only tested for 1 year	Daels and Hughes. (1995) Theriogenology 44:629-639
	n/a	used experimentally	380 Copper T IUDs (n=15) resulted in pregnancy rates of 20, 71, 86 and 100% compared to 75, 75, 88 and 100% for controls for year 1-4 post-treatment, respectively	contraceptive efficacy only lasted 1 year	Killian et al. (2008) Wildl Res 35:103-115
	iUPOD	2 studies completed	self-assembling magnets form a triangle in the uterus; retention length was up to 5 months; requires that mares are not pregnant	contraceptive efficacy not tested	Gradil et al. 2019
			0% of the treated mares became pregnant over a 3 month (n=4) or 4 month (n=4) period; 5 of 8 mares had intra-uterine fluid build-up, but improved with estrus & ovulation and none of the mares had fluid build-up at the completion of the study; reversibility was observed within 30 days post-device retrieval	mares cycle but also experience prolonged diestrus; contraceptive efficacy was 100% for 3-4 months	Gradil et al. (submitted)