

Metritis

Metritis is inflammation of the muscle and lining of the uterus, usually caused by bacterial infection associated with [retained placenta](#).

Bacteria enter the uterus during calving and, if the placenta is not expelled, membranes hanging from the vulva provide a conduit for bacterial passage into the uterus. The majority of cows will have bacteria present in the uterus after calving but these will normally be eliminated during the physiological process of involution.

Cows with severe uterine infections in the early postpartum period have lower conception rates at subsequent breedings. Infection rates can be reduced by:

- providing dry cow diets containing adequate intakes of [vitamin A](#), [vitamin E](#) and [selenium](#), which are important to immune function;
- calving cows in a clean environment and maintaining clean surroundings for cows with retained placenta;
- disinfect hands and equipment when calving assistance is required;
- reducing the length of retained membranes to a foot from the vulva and dipping the stump in iodine solution.

Results of several trials indicate that routine postpartum uterine infusion with antibiotics is ineffective and may actually increase the incidence of uterine infection.

for more information:

[Fresh Cow Problems: How to control them](#), *Hoard's Dairyman Books*