Aspermia and enlarged ampullae following EVA vaccination in a stallion
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A prebreeding season fertility evaluation was performed on a 17-year-old Appaloosa stallion at Oregon State University VTH. The stallion had been bred the previous season, and all mares bred by him became pregnant. The stallion had normal libido when presented to an estrous mare, mounted the phantom and ejaculated on the first attempt. Examination of the ejaculate revealed few sperm with concurrent low semen alkaline phosphatase, consistent with a lack of epididymal secretions. The testes had a turgid consistency with a scrotal width of 10 cm and endocrine results were within normal limits. Transrectal palpation and ultrasonography revealed bilaterally mildly enlarged ampullae. The owner was concerned that the cause of the stallion’s aspermia was the result of EVA vaccination (Arvac®, Fort Dodge Animal Health, Ft. Dodge, IA) two months previously. No EVA was detected in the ejaculate using virus isolation and PCR. Semen bacterial culture yielded minimal growth of α-hemolytic Streptococcus sp. and Corynebacterium sp., consistent with normal flora. Urethroscopy was performed, revealing an inflamed mass on the seminal colliculus but the ampullary and seminal vesicular openings appeared to be normal and unobstructed. Natural and experimental EVA infection can cause ampullitis in stallions.1,2 However, it is not known if attenuated infection following immunization with a modified-live EVA vaccine could have caused a temporary ampullitis with aspermia as seen in this stallion.

Keywords: Stallion, ampullitis, equine viral arteritis, aspermia

References