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A Potential Use of Doppler Ultrasound as a Tool for Reproductive Studies in Cows

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Abstract

The present study aimed to use color and spectral Doppler ultrasound to study both follicular, luteal blood flow vascularization areas and ovarian and uterine arteries Doppler indices after single and multiple ovulations and after induction of ovulation using either Ovsynch or CIDR evaluated. Nitric oxide and ovarian hormones were estimated in blood serum. Results of the non-induced ovulation showed that both days and phases of the oestrus cycle influenced ($P=0.0001$) the follicular dynamic, the luteal dynamic, the ovarian and uterine hemodynamic. The ovulatory wave and the mid-luteal non-ovulatory wave had expanding numbers and the diameters of small, medium and large follicles. Though area, antral area, vascularization area of the (ovulatory follicle) OF ascended from day -4 to the day of ovulation (day 0), but the percent of the vascularization area and the granulosa layer increased till day -3. The CL diameter and luteal vascularization area increased till day 13, and 15, but luteal % of vascularization area ascended ($P=0.0001$) from days 1 to 4 and declined from days 9 to 13. Both (resistance index)RI and(pulsatility index) PI of the ipsilateral ovarian artery were lower than the contralateral one, but both obtained high values during the follicular phase. A linear increase ($P=0.0001$) of uterine horns vascularization area, both ovarian and uterine arteries diameters, (peak systolic velocity)PSV and (end diastolic velocity) EDV from follicular to late luteal phases was accompanied by a linear decrease of their PI and RI. Ovsynch ipsi-lateral Ov.A and Ut.A blood flows were lower ($P<0.05$) than the spontaneous ones as expressed by lower diameters, PSV, EDV, BFV and S/D accompanied higher PI and RI. The ovsynch contra-lateral Ov.A had higher ($P<0.01$) PI but lower TAMV during follicular and early luteal phases. The ovsynch contralateral Ut.A had lower ($P<0.05$) PSV and EDV during follicular and late-luteal phases. Ovsynch ovulation had low E_2 , NO and high glucose but the late luteal had high ($P<0.001$) P_4 and glucose but low E_2 compared to the spontaneous ovulations. The right ovarian artery had higher blood flow parameters and Doppler indices after ovulation and the parameters of the right uterine artery increased after CIDR insertion reaching a maximum value on day of prostaglandin injection then descended reaching low values on day 2, while the parameters of the left uterine artery decreased sharply from day -7 and reached minimum level on day 18. Estradiol increased but progesterone decreased from day -7 till day of ovulation. P_4 reached maximum values on day 12 and decreased after that till day 18. Nitric oxide metabolites showed one peak on day -1 and another on day 6 and 8. The results of superovulation revealed that the ovulatory wave (days -5 to 0), and the non ovulatory wave (days 4 to 9) after ovulation were associated with increased numbers and diameters of small (≤ 0.5 cm), medium ($>0.5-\leq 0.1$ cm), and large (>1.0 cm) follicles and from ≥ 13 follicles, five follicles ovulated from both ovaries. The PSV of uterine arteries decreased while that of ovarian arteries increased from day -4 to Day 0. Both ovarian arteries diameter, RI, PSV, EDV and S/D positively correlated ($P<0.0001$), but their PI negatively correlated ($P<0.0001$). The uterine arteries PI, RI, PSV, EDV, TAMV and S/D negatively correlated ($P<0.0001$) but their diameters positively correlated. Estradiol increased but progesterone decreased from day -5 till Day 0. After ovulation, P_4 reached maximum values on day 9 and started to decrease till day 19. Nitric oxide showed one peak on day -3 and another one from day 3 to day 9. In conclusion, the ovarian and uterine blood flows vary according to the estrous day, estrous phase, the ovulating ovary, ovulatory follicle growth and corpus luteum developmental stage. In addition to, the decrease of the follicle blood flow may decrease the follicle quality and the decrease of the luteal vascularization and their association with lowered uterine blood flow may disturb the maintenance of the embryo when the animals undergo timed insemination following the ovsynch protocol. As well as there was the same pattern of blood flow in both ovarian arteries and different pattern of blood flow in both uterine arteries and depended on pre- or post-ovulation. Finally, in superovulation, the blood flow of ovarian arteries is different from uterine arteries vascular perfusion.

Keywords: Doppler, ovarian artery, uterine artery, cows, eCG, ovsynch, CIDR

Dedication

I dedicate this study to my parents and my brothers for their, understanding, support and help to succeed. Thank you for every unconditional love and guidance.

I dedicate this study to my husband who inspired me to be strong despite many obstacles in life .Thank you for everything.

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Contents

Abstract.....	
Dedication.....	
Acknowledgements.....	
Table of contents.....	
List of Tables.....	I
List of Figures.....	III
List of abbreviations.....	VII
Chapter 1: Introduction.....	1
Chapter 2: Review of literature.....	5
2.1. Doppler sonography.....	5
2.1.1. Principle of Doppler sonography.....	5
2.1.2. Doppler modes and measurements.....	6
2.2. Anatomy of the bovine reproductive tract.....	7
2.3. Anatomy of the bovine ovaries.....	8
2.4. Vascular anatomy of the bovine reproductive system.....	8
2.4.1. Ovarian blood supply.....	8
2.4.2. Uterine and vaginal blood supply.....	9
2.5. The cow reproductive cycle.....	9
2.5.1. Hormonal regulation of the bovine estrous cycle.....	10
2.5.2. Bovine follicular dynamics, selection and dominance.....	11
2.5.3. Follicular wave phenomenon.....	14
2.5.4. Ovulation.....	14
2.6. Ovarian blood flow during the cow estrous cycle.....	15
2.6.1. Follicular phase and its vascular perfusion during the estrous cycle.....	15
2.6.2. Luteal phase and its vascular perfusion during the estrous cycle.....	17
2.7. Uterine vascular perfusion during the estrous cycle.....	20
2.8. Interaction of ovarian steroids and nitric oxide in altering uteroovarian blood flow during the estrous cycle.....	21
2.9. Methods of synchronization of the bovine estrous cycle....	23
2.9.1.1. Progestins.....	23

2.9.1.2. Prostaglandin.....	24
2.9.1.3. GnRH.....	24
2.10. Methods of superovulation.....	25
2.10.1. Equine chorionic gonadotropin (eCG).....	25
2.10.2. FSH preparations.....	26
Chapter 3: Published paper (S).....	28
3.1 Dynamics of uterine and ovarian arteries flow velocity waveforms and their relation to follicular and luteal growth and blood flow vascularization during the estrous cycle in Friesian cows.....	30
1. Abstract.....	31
2. Introduction.....	32
3. Materials and Methods	33
3.1. Animals and Ultrasound scanning.....	33
3.2. Blood flow vascularization area of ovarian follicles, corpus luteum, and uterus.....	34
3.3. Image analysis	34
3.4. Statistical analysis.....	35
4. Results.....	35
5. Discussion	39
6. Conclusions.....	41
7. References	41
8. Tables and figures.....	50
3.2. Effect of Synchronization Program (ovsynch) on Follicular and Luteal Vascularization Percentages, Ovarian and Uterine Arteries Blood Flow Volumes in Friesian Cows.....	66
1. Abstract.....	67
2. Introduction.....	68
3. Materials and Methods	69
3.1. Animals, treatments and Ultrasound scanning.....	69
3.2. Image analysis	71
3.3. Blood sampling and hormone assaying.....	72
3.4. Statistical analysis	73
4. Results.....	73
4.1. Comparison between ovsynch and spontaneous ovulations within phases of the estrous cycle.....	73
4.2. Effect of ovsynch on follicle and luteal growth during different phases and days of the estrous cycle.....	74
4.3. Ovarian arteries blood flow.....	76
4.4. Uterine horns vascularization and uterine arteries blood flow.....	76

4.5. Hormonal and nitric oxide changes.....	77
5. Discussion	78
6. Conclusions.....	84
7. References	84
8. Tables and figures.....	91
3.3. Effect of Controlled internal drug release device (CIDR) on ovarian and uterine arteries blood flow velocities and follicular dynamics in relation to hormonal changes and nitric oxide in cows.....	107
1. Abstract.....	108
2. Introduction.....	109
3. Materials and Methods	110
3.1 Animals, treatments and Ultrasound scanning.....	110
3.2. Image analysis.....	111
3.3. Blood sampling and hormone assaying.....	112
3.4. Statistical analysis	112
4. Results.....	113
4.1. Follicular responses to CIDR synchronization program	113
4.2. Corpus luteum (CL) development and vascularization.....	113
4.3. Ovarian arteries blood flow changes during CIDR program.....	113
4.4. Uterine arteries blood flow changes during CIDR program.....	114
4.5. Hormonal and Nitric oxide metabolites level changes during CIDR program.....	115
5. Discussion	115
6. Conclusions.....	118
7. References	119
8. Tables and figures.....	124
3.4. Ovarian and uterine arteries blood flow velocities waveform, hormones and nitric oxide in relation to ovulation in cows superstimulated with equine chorionic gonadotropin and luteolysis induction 10 and 17 days after ovulation.....	136
1. Abstract.....	137
2. Introduction.....	138
3. Materials and Methods	139
3.1. Animals, treatments and Ultrasound scanning.....	139
3.2. Image analysis	140
3.3. Blood sampling and hormone assaying.....	141
3.4. Statistical analysis	141
4. Results.....	142
4.1. Follicular responses to treatment with eCG.....	142
4.2. Corpora lutea (CLs) vascularization.....	143

4.3. Ovarian arteries blood flow.....	143
4.4. Uterine arteries blood flow.....	143
4.5. Hormonal and nitric oxide changes.....	145
5. Discussion	146
6. Conclusions.....	150
7. References	150
8. Tables and figures.....	154
Chapter 4: Discussion.....	165
Chapter 5: Conclusion and Recommendations	181
Chapter 6: Summary.....	183
Chapter 7: References.....	187
Appendix.....	212
الملخص العربي.....	
المستخلص العربي.....	

List of Tables

No.	Title	Page
<u>Chapter 3.1.</u>		
Table (1).	Mean, Standard deviation (SD), standard error of the Mean (SEM), effect of days (Day) during the estrous cycle, significance of paired t-test (Sig.), their correlation (r) and the correlation P-values of ovarian hemodynamic in cows.....	50
Table (2).	Mean, Standard deviation (SD), standard error of the Mean (SEM), effect of days (Day) during the estrous cycle, significance of paired t-test (Sig.), their correlation (r) and the correlation P-values of uterine hemodynamic in cows	51
Table (3).	Mean± standard error of the Mean (SEM) showing effect of the phase of the estrous cycle on follicular and luteal dynamics in cows	52
Table (4).	Mean± standard error of the Mean (SEM) showing effect of phase of the estrous cycle on ovarian hemodynamic parameters in cows ..	53
Table (5).	Mean± standard error of the Mean (SEM) showing effect of phase of the estrous cycle on uterine hemodynamic parameters in cows.....	54
<u>Chapter 3.2.</u>		
Table (1).	The mean ± SEM (standard error of the mean) differences in follicles numbers and diameters during different phases of both spontaneous and induced ovulations of Friesian cows.....	101
Table (2).	The mean ± SEM (standard error of the mean) differences in ipsilateral (Ipsi.OV. A.) and contralateral ovarian arteries (Contra.OV. A) diameters/mm blood flow velocities and volume flow (mL/min) during different phases of both spontaneous and induced ovulations of Friesian cow.....	102
Table (3).	The mean ± SEM (standard error of the mean) differences of ipsilateral (Ipsi.Ut. A.) and contralateral uterine arteries (Contra.Ut. A.) diameters blood flow velocities and volume flow during different phases of both spontaneous and induced ovulations of Friesian cows.....	103
Table (4).	The mean ± SEM (standard error of the mean) ovarian hormones, glucose and estradiol during different phases of spontaneous and induced ovulations (Ovsynch).....	105

No.	Title	Page
<u>Chapter 3.3.</u>	Comparison between the mean, the standard deviation (SD) and the standard error (SE) of the right (R) and left (L) ovarian artery (Ov. A.) diameter (CS), blood flow RI, PI, PSV, EDV, AMV, and S/D, the correlations (r) between the right and left ovarian arteries CS, RI, PI, PSV, EDV, TAMV and S/D, and the correlation of the mean ovarian arteries CS, RI, PI, PSV, EDV, TAMV, and S/D	132
Table (1).		
Table (2).	The comparison between the mean, the standard deviation (SD) and the standard error (SE) of the right (R) and left (L) uterine arteries (U.A.) mean diameter (CS), blood flow RI, PI, PSV, EDV, TAMV and S/D , the correlations (r) between the right and left uterine arteries CS, RI, PI, PSV,EDV, TAMV and S/D, and the correlation of the mean uterine arteries CS, RI, PI, PSV,EDV, TAMV, and S/D.....	133
<u>Chapter 3.4.</u>	The comparison between each follicle and its corresponding CL mean area and color area, their ratios and their correlations on the right and left ovaries.....	162
Table (1).		
Table (2).	The comparison between the mean, the standard deviation (SD) and the standard error (SE) of the right (R) and left (L) ovarian artery (Ov. A.) diameter (CS), blood flow RI, PI, PSV, EDV, AMV, and S/D, the correlations (r) between the right and left ovarian arteries CS, RI, PI, PSV, EDV, TAMV and S/D, and the correlation of the mean ovarian arteries CS, RI, PI, PSV, EDV, TAMV, and S/D with estradiol (E2), progesterone (P4), and nitric oxide metabolites (NOMs)	163
Table (3).	The comparison between the right (R) and left (L) uterine arteries (U.A.) mean diameter (CS), blood flow RI, PI, PSV, EDV, TAMV and S/D , the correlations (r) between the right and left uterine arteries CS, RI, PI, PSV,EDV, TAMV and S/D, and the correlation of the mean uterine arteries CS, RI, PI, PSV,EDV, TAMV, and S/D with peripheral estradiol (E2), progesterone (P4), and nitric oxide metabolites (NOMs).....	164

List of Figures

No.	Caption	Page
<u>Chapter 2</u>	The vascular supply of heifer reproductive system.....	9
Figure (1)		
Figure (2)	Concept of luteolysis triggered by an acute increase in the local blood flow (BF) of the CL. PGF ₂ α released from uterus stimulates nitric oxide (NO) production and release in the arterioles of the peripheral vasculature of the mature CL, inducing vasodilation of the arterioles.....	19
<u>Chapter 3.1.</u>	Mean ±SEM number of small, medium, large and total follicles during days of the estrous cycle.....	55
Figure (1)		
Figure (2)	Mean ±SEM diameter of the largest small, medium, large ovulatory and non-ovulatory follicle during days of the estrous cycle.....	56
Figure (3)	Mean ±SEM follicle area, antrum area and colored area /pixel of ovulatory and non ovulatory follicles during days of the estrous cycle.....	57
Figure (4)	Mean ±SEM % of colored pixels of the ovulatory and non-ovulatory follicle with or without antrum (Granulosa layer) during days of the estrous cycle.....	58
Figure (5)	Mean ±SEM CL size and % of colored pixel during days after ovulation.....	59
Figure (6)	Mean ±SEM CL area, colored apical, middle, inner and total areas in pixels during days after ovulation.....	60
Figure (7)	Mean ±SEM ipsilateral and contralateral ovarian (O.) and middle uterine (mid. Ut.) arteries cross section diameter/mm during days of estrous cycle.....	61
Figure (8)	Mean ±SEM ipsilateral and contralateral ovarian artery RI and PI during days of estrous cycle.....	62
Figure (9)	Mean ±SEM ipsilateral and contralateral uterine horns colored area, uterine artery RI and PI indices.....	63
Figure (10)	Mean ±SEM ipsilateral and contralateral uterine and ovarian arteries PS and ED velocities.....	64

No.	Caption	Page
<u>Chapter 3.2.</u>	Mean \pm SEM number of small, medium, large and total follicles from first start of ovsynch treatment (right panel) in comparison to spontaneous ovulation (left panel).....	91
Figure (1)		
Figure (2)	Mean diameter/cm of small, medium, and large follicles from the start of ovsynch (right panel) in comparison to spontaneous ovulation (left panel).....	92
Figure (3)	Mean area, antrum area, and colored area of the dominant follicle (F1), the subordinate one (F2), ipsilateral and contralateral uterine horns CS vascularization color area from start of ovsynch treatment (right panel) in comparison to spontaneous ovulation (left panel).....	93
Figure (4)	Mean diameter/mm, area and color area/pixel and color area % of the corpus luteum from day following ovulation of spontaneous and induced (ovsynch) till day 15 after ovulation.....	94
Figure (5)	Mean ipsilateral and contralateral ovarian artery (Ov. A.) artery diameter/mm, RI (Resistance index), and PI (Pulsatility index) from the start of ovsynch (right panel) in comparison to spontaneous ovulation (left panel).....	95
Figure (6)	Mean Ipsilateral ovarian artery (Ipsi. Ov. A.) PSV (Peak systolic velocity), EDV(End diastolic velocity) and time average man velocity from start of ovsynch (right panel) in comparison to spontaneous ovulation (left panel).....	96
Figure (7)	Mean blood flow volume (ml/min.) of the ovarian and uterine arteries ipsi-lateral and contra- lateral to the ovulating follicle and the developing corpus luteum from the start of ovsynch treatment (right panel) in comparison to spontaneous ovulation (left panel).....	97
Figure (8)	Mean ipsilateral and contralateral uterine artery diameter/mm, RI (Resistance index), and PI (Pulsatility index) from the start of ovsynch treatment (right panel) in comparison to spontaneous ovulation (left panel).....	98
Figure (9)	Mean uterine arteries artery (Ut. A.)Time average mean velocity (TAMV), PSV (Peak systolic velocity) and EDV (End diastolic velocity) from the start of ovsynch treatment (right panel) in comparison to spontaneous ovulation (left panel).....	99
Figure (10)	Mean peripheral estradiol (E2, pg/ml), progesterone (P4, ng/ml), nitric oxide metabolites (NOMs, μ mol/L), and glucose mg/dL with error bars from the start of ovsynch till day 15.....	100

No.	Caption	Page
<u>Chapter 3.3.</u>	Mean \pm SEM number of small, medium, large and total follicles from first day of CIDR insertion (-7) till day of CIDR removal (Day 0).....	124
Figure (1)		
Figure (2)	Mean largest diameter of small, medium, and large follicles from first day of CIDR insertion (-7) till day of CIDR removal (Day 0).....	125
Figure (3)	Mean area, antrum area and colored area of the largest follicle from first day of CIDR insertion (-7) till day of CIDR removal (Day 0).....	126
Figure (4)	Mean area and color area/pixel of the corpus luteum from second day of ovulation after CIDR removal till day 18 after ovulation	127
Figure (5)	Mean color area% and diameter of the corpus luteum from second day of ovulation after CIDR removal till day 18 after ovation.....	128
Figure (6)	Mean right ovarian (R.Ov.) and left ovarian (L.Ov.) arteries cross section diameter (CS/mm), RI (Resistance index), PI(Pulsatility index), PSV(Peak systolic velocity) and EDV(End diastolic velocity from first day of CIDR insertion (-7) till day 18	129
Figure (7)	Mean right (R.U.A.) and left (L.U. A.) uterine arteries cross section diameter (CS/mm), RI, PI, PSV and EDV from first day of CIDR insertion (-7) till day 18 after ovulation.....	130
Figure (8)	Mean estradiol (E2, pg/ml), progesterone (P4, ng/ml), nitric oxide metabolites (NOMs, μ mol/L), and glucose mg/dL with error bars from first day of CIDR insertion (-7) till day 18 after ovulation.....	131
<u>Chapter 3.4.</u>	Mean \pm SEM number of small, medium, large and total follicles from day of eCG treatment (-5) till ovulation (Day 0).....	154
Figure (1)		
Figure (2)	Mean largest diameter of small, medium, and large follicles from day of eCG treatment (-5) till ovulation (Day 0).....	155
Figure (3)	Mean color area/pixel and color area percent of the largest five follicles (F1-5) from day of eCG treatment (-5) till ovulation (Day 0). R means on the right ovary, L means on the left ovary.....	156
Figure (4)	Mean area and color area/pixel of the corpora lutea (CL1-5) from day of ovulation (Day 0). R means on the right ovary, L means on the left ovary.....	157