

Post cervical AI, gilt safety and biosecurity conundrums

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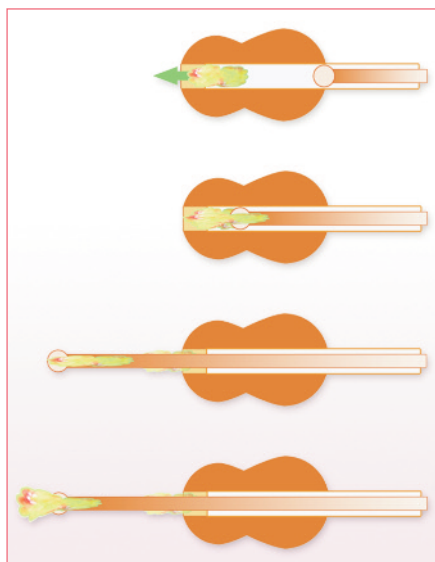
Post cervical AI and its performance potential is staggering compared to that of traditional AI. Have you stopped to think of the unintended side effects the common tube-within-a-tube design might cause? One such concern is in maintaining cleanliness and providing nothing but virgin genetic material into your animal's reproductive tract.

With normal IUI catheters, it is very common, and even heavily stressed, that your AI technicians never touch the inner tube when inserting them into the guide rod so they will not become contaminated; but do you realise what these inner tubes are being pushed through prior to entering the uterus?

When any AI catheter is inserted into the cervix prior to insemination, it automatically collects vaginal fluids, bacteria, urine, maybe lubrication, and who knows what else.

Standard IUI catheters have no way to deal with this contamination; therefore, when the smaller diameter inner rod is pushed through the guide catheter and through the cervix, it too, automatically collects a plug of this contaminating material which is the first thing dropped into your animal's uterus, or uterine horns (Fig. 1).

Fig. 1. Standard IUI catheters.



Common sense tells you this is not a good thing; but there is nothing you can do about it with this design of catheter.

Simple solution

The AMG Series catheters absolutely eliminate this issue and push the contaminated mucus immediately to the sides, in the beginning of the cervix, and prevents these contaminants from entering any critical part of your sow or gilt's anatomy. The patented, non-sliding motion of the inverting membrane is the simple solution to this potentially dangerous defect in traditional IUI methodology (Fig. 2).

Not only does Absolute Swine Insemination Co (ASIC) solve this problem, most, if not all of the larger catheter companies' websites do not even mention this issue. In addition, all of the big companies sell virtually identically designed IUI catheters for sows and not one of them advertises that their technology can be used in gilts. Why not? If their technology is so safe, why is it not safe enough for use in gilts?

ASIC's AMG Series catheters are the only IUI catheters specifically designed to be safely used with gilts.

Many IUI catheters are sold with extensions to allow the animals to draw semen into the uterus via contractions; yet they say the semen reaches the UTJ within minutes. How can that be? These are nothing more than simple intra-uterine inseminations, and none of the standard IUI technologies suggest that you can inject the genetic material far up the horns.

ASIC's procedures require this because the 6.35mm expandable membrane gets even bigger under pressure. This design feature allows semen to fully irrigate the horns immediately.

If you tried this with traditional IUI rods, a single small hole at the end of the inner tube 1.6mm or multiple holes that are even smaller, designed to distribute semen in different directions, could create extreme turbulence and/or a hard stream of semen that could damage or irritate the uterus and surrounding tissues.

If you do not gently irrigate the entire horn section with semen, traditional IUI insemina-

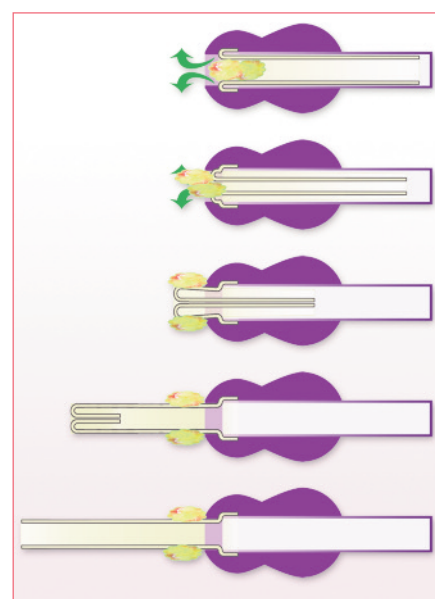


Fig. 2. The AMG Series catheters.

tions still need the semen to travel the long journey up the horns and undergo phagocytosis; better known as the death march. The AMG Series catheter places strong, viable semen, directly at the UTJ.

Summary

The AMG series is safe for use on both sows and gilts, it is the only IUI catheter in the world that maintains biosecurity from the semen container all the way to the UTJ, and it is also the only catheter in the world that prevents the majority of semen doses being killed by phagocytosis. This is why ASIC's farrowing rates and live-born numbers are higher than the competition's average.

ASIC offers an absolute choice and a proven system. If you use IUI on your farm, why not pick a system that is capable of servicing all your animals, and not just your sows?

These membrane/balloon catheters can also be used to irrigate reproductive tracts post farrowing with safe disinfectant solutions that might reduce the need for antibiotics, which could save you money and help create safer meat for the consumer. ■