



## Journal of the Hellenic Veterinary Medical Society

Vol 66, No 4 (2015)



## To cite this article:

MACÍAS-GARCÍA B., GUIMARÃES T., LOPES, G., ROCHA, A., & GONZÁLEZ-FERNÁNDEZ, L. (2018). Effect of genistein addition to equine sperm freezing extender. *Journal of the Hellenic Veterinary Medical Society*, *66*(4), 241–248. https://doi.org/10.12681/jhvms.15868

# Research article Ερευνητικό άρθρο

## Effect of genistein addition to equine sperm freezing extender

۲

Beatriz Macías-García<sup>1</sup>, Tiago Guimarães<sup>1,2</sup>, Graça Lopes<sup>1,2</sup>, Antonio Rocha<sup>1,2</sup>, Lauro González-Fernández<sup>1,\*</sup>

> <sup>1</sup>CECA/ICETA – Animal Sciences Centre, University of Porto, Portugal <sup>2</sup>ICBAS – Abel Salazar Biomedical Institute, University of Porto, Portugal

**ABSTRACT**. Cryopreservation negatively affects equine sperm quality post-thaw: an excessive release of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and increased protein tyrosine phosphorylation (known as cryocapacitation) have been demonstrated in frozen-thawed equine sperm diminishing its lifespan. The objective of this study was to determine the possible beneficial effect of genistein addition (a ROS scavenger and protein tyrosine kinase inhibitor) to a commercial freezing extender. Equine sperm were frozen in the presence of different genistein concentrations ranging from 0 to 800  $\mu$ M. After thawing, the sperm viability (eosinnigrosin), acrosome integrity using peanut agglutinin (PNA), protein tyrosine phosphorylation (PY) and motility were assessed at times 0 and 1 hr. In addition PY was studied in fresh and frozen sperm incubated in Modified Whitten's (MW) medium with 25 mM Bicarbonate (MW+Bic). Genistein did not affect the viability, total or progressive motility or acrosome status of frozenthawed equine sperm. Immediately after thawing, positive PY staining in the equatorial band was observed and genistein addition did not exert any change in PY. Fresh sperm incubated in MW+Bic showed a significant increase in PY staining along the tail compared to frozen-thawed sperm. In our study sperm viability immediately post-thaw was  $58.25\% \pm 5.35$  and progressive motility  $14.46\% \pm 5.7$  (mean  $\pm$  S.E.M.) and genistein did not improve the post-thaw quality of equine sperm. In addition, cryopreservation did not induce PY immediately post-thaw or enhanced frozen-thawed equine sperm. In addition, cryo-

۲

Keywords: antioxidants, cryopreservation, sperm, equine

### **INTRODUCTION**

۲

Cryopreservation induces deleterious effects in equine sperm due to the concurrence of several phenomena during freezing-thawing cycles namely ice crystal formation, osmotic shock, cold shock and an increased production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) (Hammerstedt et al., 1990; Pommer et al., 2002; Sieme et al., 2008). These events diminish sperm viability, causing a notable decrease of sperm quality compared to fresh semen, resulting in impaired fertility (Metcalf, 2007). The use of frozen-thawed stallion semen involves additional costs for the owners of the stallion and the mare; the lower the motility and viability of sperm, the higher the number of straws required per artificial insemination dose and also, more ultrasounds are needed to determine the exact timing of ovulation (Metcalf, 2007). One of the most important harmful changes occurring during freezing and thawing cycles in equine sperm is the increase in reactive

*Corresponding author at:* Centro de Estudos de Ciência Animal (CECA), Universidade do Porto, Rua Padre Armando Quintas 7, 4485-661, Vairão, Vila do Conde. Portugal. E-mail address: lgonfer@unex.es

Date of initial submission: 15.01.2015 Date of revised submission: 01.03.2015 Date of acceptance: 03.03.2015 oxygen species (ROS) production (Ball et al., 2001; Burnaugh et al., 2010). Low concentration of ROS are produced physiologically in mammalian sperm during capacitation, hyperactivation and acrosome reaction (de Lamirande et al., 1997). However, an excessive increase in ROS production results in DNA fragmentation (Aitken and Baker, 2006) and oxidative degradation of the highly unsaturated plasmalemma's lipids (Garcia et al., 2011), resulting in a decrease of the sperm's membrane integrity and functionality (Ball et al., 2001; Ball and Vo, 2002).

In frozen-thawed equine sperm, an increased ROS production, has been reported to induce severe changes such as DNA fragmentation (Baumber et al., 2003a). Among all the ROS produced by equine sperm, hydrogen peroxide has been claimed to be the most harmful being involved in enhanced acrosome reaction and induction PY induction in fresh equine sperm (Baumber et al., 2003b) and has also been shown to affect detrimentally the motility of fresh equine sperm (Baumber et al., 2000). It has also been demonstrated that ROS addition was associated with a marked increase of protein tyrosine phosphorylation (PY) in fresh equine semen (Baumber et al., 2003b). PY has been related to sperm fertilization ability and, more specifically, is known to be a final hallmark of mammalian sperm capacitation (Visconti et al., 1995). During sperm cryopreservation this PY increase can also be observed and is known as "cryocapacitation" (Cormier and Bailey, 2003), but far from being a physiological event that prepares sperm for fertilization, it leads to a decreased life span of mammalian sperm in the female reproductive tract (Bailey et al., 2000). The cryocapacitation process has been reported in the equine species (De Andrade et al., 2012; Schembri et al., 2002; Thomas et al., 2006). Several studies have shown that antioxidants neutralize the increase in ROS, and have been added to cryopreservation extenders in an attempt to avoid sperm damage resulting in excessive ROS production. However, compounds with antioxidant properties such us ascorbic acid and alpha-tocopherol (Baumber et al., 2005), or quercetin (Gibb et al., 2013) have been shown not to exert any benefit on equine sperm quality after thawing. In addition, other ROS scavengers such as glutathione have resulted in moderate beneficial effects in equine sperm (de Oliveira et al., 2013). Genistein is a phytoestrogen belonging to the isoflavone category with antioxidant properties and it is an effective hydrogen peroxide scavenger (Record et al., 1995) as well as a potent inhibitor of protein tyrosine kinases (Gonzalez-Fernandez et al., 2013). Genistein addition to cryopreservation media has shown to induce an increase in sperm motility and viability and a decrease in DNA damage in human sperm (Thomson et al., 2009). Therefore, the aim of this work was to improve equine sperm post-thaw quality. To fulfil this objective, different concentrations of genistein were added to a commercial freezing extender and the impact of genistein on viability, motility, PY and acrosome status post-thaw was assessed.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS Materials

Bovine serum albumin (BSA), Genistein, Triton X-100, poly-L-lysine and PNA-FITC conjugate were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Inc. (St. Louis, MO, USA). Anti-phosphotyrosine monoclonal antibody (clone 4G10) was from Millipore (Billerica, MA, USA). Anti-mouse IgG fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC)-conjugated secondary antibody was from Santa Cruz Biotechnology Inc. (Santa Cruz, CA, USA). Slowfade<sup>®</sup> gold antifade was from Molecular Probes (Eugene, OR, USA).

#### Semen collection and processing

Semen was collected from five fertile pure bred Lusitano stallions, with ages ranging from 3 to 23 years, using an artificial vagina (Hannover model, Minitüb, Landshut, Germany). All experimental procedures were performed according to institutional and European regulations. A nylon in-line filter (Animal Reproduction Systems, Chino, CA, USA) was used to eliminate the gel fraction. The sperm-rich fraction was diluted 1:2 (v:v) in Kenney's medium and subsequently processed for cryopreservation.

J HELLENIC VET MED SOC 2015, 66(4) ПЕКЕ 2015, 66(4)

#### Sperm cryopreservation and thawing

The ejaculates were centrifuged 10 min at 900  $\times$  g and the supernatant was discarded. Cryopreservation of equine sperm cells was performed as described by Guimarães et al. (2012). Briefly, the sperm pellet was re-suspended in an egg-yolk based freezing extender (Botucrio®, Botupharma, Botucatu, Brazil) added with the different genistein concentrations used (0, 10)µM, 100 µM, 200 µM, 400 µM and 800 µM) yielding a final concentration of  $200 \times 10^6$  sperm/ml. Three straws (0.5 ml) per treatment were loaded and maintained at 4 °C for 20 min. Then, the straws were placed 6 cm above the liquid nitrogen (LN<sub>2</sub>) surface and kept in nitrogen vapours for further 25 min. After this period the straws were plunged in LN, and stored. Straws were thawed in a water bath, at 37°C for 1 min, their content transferred into a pre-heated eppendorf tube at 37°C and analyzed after 10 min (time 0) or after 1 hr (time 1 hr). Each was analysed individually.

#### Viability

۲

For viability evaluation, the supravital eosin-nigrosin stain was used. Twenty microliters of semen were mixed with  $20 \,\mu l$  of the stain, and the mix was smeared on a pre-heated slide at 37°C. The samples were air dried and examined using a light microscope (magnification 100×). One hundred sperm were counted



**Figure 1.** Effect of different concentrations of genistein on viability of frozen-thawed equine sperm. After thawing, sperm were incubated for 1 h at 37 °C in air in freezing extender. No significant differences among incubation time (0 or 1 hour) were found (p > 0.05) (n = 5).

per sample. Sperm excluding the nigrosin-eosin stain were considered alive, while sperm showing a "pinkish" colour were counted as dead.

### Motility analysis

۲

Sperm motility was analyzed by a computer-assisted sperm analysis (CASA) system (ISAS 1.0.6; Proiser S.L., Valencia, Spain). Sperm samples were diluted to 50 x 10<sup>6</sup> sperm/ml using Kenney's medium and an aliquot (6  $\mu$ l) of each sample was placed in a pre-heated (37°C) motility chamber with a fixed height of 20  $\mu$ m (Proiser S.L., Valencia, Spain). For motility assessment, a minimum of three microscopic fields and 300 total sperm were evaluated at 25 frames per second. The parameters assessed were percent of total motility (TM), percent of progressive motility (PM), curvilinear velocity (VCL), average path velocity (VAP), straight-line velocity (VSL), straightness (STR), amplitude of lateral head movement (ALH), and linearity (LIN).

#### Protein tyrosine phosphorylation

Fresh or frozen-thawed sperm were centrifuged 5 min at 500 × g and washed in 1 ml of PBS. After centrifugation the pellet was resuspended in 1 ml of PBS and the cell concentration was adjusted to  $5 \times 10^6$  spermatozoa/ml. Ten microliters of each sample was placed on a slide pre-treated with poly-L-lysine. After 10 min,



**Figure 2.** Effect of different concentrations of genistein on the acrosome status of cryopreserved equine sperm. After thawing sperm were incubated for 1 h at 37 °C in air in cryopreservation extender. No significant differences among incubation time (0 and 1 h) or concentration used were found (P > 0.05) (n = 5).

J HELLENIC VET MED SOC 2015, 66(4) ПЕКЕ 2015, 66(4)

	Time 0		Time 1h	
_	TM (% ± S.E.M.)	PM (% ± S.E.M.)	TM (% ± S.E.M.)	PM (% ± S.E.M.)
Control 10 µM genistein 100 µM genistein 200 µM genistein 400 µM genistein 800 µM genistein	$23.7 \pm 7.7^{a}$ $23.1 \pm 7.7^{a}$ $17.1 \pm 3.1^{a}$ $16.5 \pm 5.7^{a}$ $17.6 \pm 4.0^{a}$ $12.5 \pm 3.4^{a}$	$14.4 \pm 5.7^{a}$ $12.6 \pm 5.4^{a}$ $8.8 \pm 2.6^{a}$ $9.0 \pm 3.5^{a}$ $8.5 \pm 2.9^{a}$ $5.7 \pm 2.1^{a}$	$13.1 \pm 3.0^{a}$ $11.7 \pm 4.1^{a}$ $10.7 \pm 2.2^{a}$ $9.5 \pm 3.0^{a}$ $8.0 \pm 2.0^{a}$ $5.2 \pm 1.7^{a}$	$5.9 \pm 2.1^{a}$ $5.4 \pm 2.5^{a}$ $4.8 \pm 1.6^{a}$ $4.3 \pm 1.7^{a}$ $3.4 \pm 1.5^{a}$ $1.6 \pm 0.9^{a}$

Table 1. Effect of different concentrations of genistein on total (TM) and progressive motility (PM) in frozen-thawed equine sperm.

After thawing, sperm were immediately analyzed (time 0) or incubated for 1 hr at 37 °C in air in freezing extender. No significant differences among incubation times were found (p > 0.05) (n = 5).

spermatozoa were fixed with 4% formaldehyde in PBS for 15 min at room temperature and sperm were permeabilized with 0.1% Triton X-100 (v:v) in PBS for 10 min. After three washes with PBS, sperm were blocked with 3% BSA in PBS for 60 min. Primary incubation with antiphosphotyrosine monoclonal antibody (diluted 1:500) was performed in 3% BSA in PBS at 4°C overnight. The sample was then washed with PBS and incubated with anti-mouse IgG (FITC)conjugated secondary antibody in 3% BSA in PBS for 1 hr at RT. After three washings with PBS, the samples were mounted on a slide with Slowfade<sup>®</sup> gold antifade solution from Molecular Probes following manufacturer's indications (Eugene, OR, USA). Samples were evaluated using a CyScope Plus HP-Partec fluorescence microscope equipped with 100× objective. One hundred sperm cells were evaluated and the number of stained tails counted.

## Acrosome evaluation

Sperm were washed, fixed as described in the previous section and, after permeabilization for 10 min in PBS with 3% BSA and 0.1% Triton X-100, (v:v), were incubated with PNA-FITC (1  $\mu$ g/m*l*) in PBS for 30 min at room temperature. The sample was then washed with PBS and mounted on a slide with Slowfade<sup>®</sup> gold antifade solution. Samples were evaluated using a CyScope Plus HP-Partec fluorescence microscope equipped with  $100 \times$  objective. One hundred sperm per sample were examined, and the number of stained acrosome counted. Stained acrosomes were considered intact, as previously described (Silva and Gadella, 2006).

#### **Statistical analysis**

A one-way ANOVA was used to compare values, followed by a Tukey post-hoc test if differences were found. Statistical significance was set at p < 0.05. Analyses were performed using GraphPad Prism ver. 4 for Windows (GraphPad Software Inc., San Diego, CA, 2003).

#### RESULTS

# Effect of genistein on sperm viability and motility parameters

Viability post-thaw in the control group was 58.25%  $\pm$  5.3 (mean  $\pm$  S.E.M.), and total and progressive motility were 23.7%  $\pm$  7.7 and 14.4%  $\pm$  15.7 (mean  $\pm$  S.E.M.) respectively. Our results showed that sperm viability as well as total and progressive motility were not affected by any of the genistein doses tested (Fig. 1 and Table 1; p > 0.05) or by the incubation length (time 0 and 1 hr; p > 0.05) when treatments were com-

J HELLENIC VET MED SOC 2015, 66(4) ПЕКЕ 2015, 66(4)

	Equatorial band (% ± S.E.M.)	
Treatment	Time 0	Time 1h
Control 10 µM genistein 100 µM genistein 200 µM genistein 400 µM genistein 800 µM genistein	$9.2 \pm 5.5^{a}$ $7.8 \pm 4.2^{a}$ $7.4 \pm 2.9^{a}$ $7.2 \pm 4.3^{a}$ $8.8 \pm 3.8^{a}$ $11.6 \pm 4.3^{a}$	$\begin{array}{c} 3.8 \pm 1.9^{a} \\ 3.6 \pm 1.4^{a} \\ 5.4 \pm 1.5^{a} \\ 2.8 \pm 1.3^{a} \\ 4.6 \pm 1.5^{a} \\ 4.2 \pm 1.4^{a} \end{array}$

 Table 2. Effect of different concentrations of genistein on protein tyrosine phosphorylation in frozen-thawed equine sperm.

•

After thawing, sperm were analyzed (time 0) or incubated for 1 hr at  $37^{\circ}$ C in air in cryopreservation extender. No significant differences among incubation time were found (p > 0.05) (n = 5).

pared between their respective incubation times.

#### Effect of genistein on acrosome status

After thawing, equine sperm showed 70.0%  $\pm$  6.4 (mean  $\pm$  S.E.M.) of acrosome intact sperm. Our results showed that the addition of genistein at the different concentrations used (10 - 800  $\mu$ M), did not significantly change the percentage of sperm showing an intact acrosome (p > 0.05; Fig. 2) after freezing and thawing at time 0 or after 1 hr incubation in freezing extender.

## Effect of genistein on protein tyrosine phosphorylation:

# Immunolocalization of PY in frozen-thawed equine sperm

*In situ* immunofluorescence was performed to localize tyrosine-phosphorylated proteins in equine sperm after thawing (time 0) or after 1 hr incubation in cryopreservation extender at 37°C in air. Frozen-thawed sperm incubated in cryopreservation extender showed a solely fluorescence pattern consisting in a positively stained equatorial band (Fig. 3, A-B) and did not show differences immediately (time 0) or after 1 hr incubation in freezing extender (Table 2).

#### PY induction in frozen-thawed equine sperm

In view of the previous results, we wanted to elucidate if an increase in PY can be induced in frozen-thawed equine sperm and if genistein addition affects this phenomenon. To achieve this goal, we incubated fresh or thawed equine sperm in MW+Bic at 10 x 10<sup>6</sup> sperm/ ml, a medium that has consistently been shown to induce protein tyrosine phosphorylation in fresh equine sperm (Gonzalez-Fernandez et al., 2012a). Fresh and frozen-thawed equine sperm incubated for 1 hr in MW+Bic showed an additional phosphorylation pattern along the entire tail (Fig. 3, C-D) or entire tail with equatorial band (image not shown). For analysis, sperm showing positive stained tail or equatorial band with stained tail were combined and considered as positive PY tail staining. The highest value for PY immunostaining was found in fresh sperm (28.5%  $\pm$ 2.6; mean  $\pm$  S.E.M.) and this was significantly different from the rest of treatments (p < 0.001). Although there was a dose dependent-concentration decrease of PY in presence of genistein in frozen-thawed sperm, there were no significant differences between treatments except for the genistein dose of 800  $\mu$ M compared to 10  $\mu$ M (2.3% ± 0.6; mean ± S.E.M.) (p < 0.01; Table 3).

#### DISCUSSION

The present work was aimed to diminish the impact of sperm cryopreservation by the addition of genistein to a commercial freezing extender. In the first part of our study, viability and motility were assessed post-thaw. The control group showed  $58.2\% \pm 5.3$  viability and

J HELLENIC VET MED SOC 2015, 66(4) ПЕКЕ 2015, 66(4)

Treatment	Tail stained ( $\% \pm$ S.E.M.)	Equatorial band ( $\% \pm$ S.E.M.)
Control (fresh) Control (thawed) 10 µM genistein 100 µM genistein 200 µM genistein 400 µM genistein 800 µM genistein	$28.5 \pm 2.6^{a}$ $10.7 \pm 1.4^{bc}$ $15.0 \pm 1.5^{c}$ $7.3 \pm 1.5^{bc}$ $9 \pm 1.5^{bc}$ $6.6 \pm 1.2^{bc}$ $2.3 \pm 0.6^{b}$	$5.7 \pm 1.0^{a}$ $2.7 \pm 1.8^{a}$ $2.7 \pm 0.7^{a}$ $3.7 \pm 2.3^{a}$ $4.0 \pm 2.1^{a}$ $3.7 \pm 0.7^{a}$ $2.7 \pm 0.7^{a}$

Table 3. Effect of different concentrations of genistein on protein tyrosine phosphorylation in equine sperm.

۲

Fresh (n = 4) or thawed sperm (n = 3) were incubated for 1 hr at 37°C in air in MW+Bic at 10 x 10<sup>6</sup> sperm/ml. PY waslocalized in the tail or in the equatorial band. Values bearing different superscripts in the same column, differ statistically (p < 0.01).

 $14.47\% \pm 15.7$  progressive motility (mean  $\pm$  S.E.M.). Our results showed that the addition of genistein to the freezing extender did not adversely influence the viability of equine sperm (Fig. 1) despite the broad range of dosages used (in agreement with González-Fernández et al. 2013), so we tried in our experiments to test its effect on motility, acrosome integrity and cryocapacitation in view of its low toxicity.

In our study, none of the genistein doses tested had any effect in frozen-thawed equine sperm motility (total or progressive; Table 1) or acrosome status (Fig. 2) either immediately or one hr after thawing (p > 0.05). These results are in contrast with those of Thomson et al. (2009), who found that addition of genistein to the freezing media (100  $\mu$ M) significantly increased total motility of human sperm, while this effect was not appreciated in bull sperm, not even after 1 hr incubation (Menzel et al., 2007). Taking in account the above data we can suggest that the effect of genistein on sperm motility differs depending on the species used. In our experiments, even when high doses of genistein (up to 800  $\mu$ M) were added to the freezing extender, motility parameters were not improved (Table 1). In addition, viability and acrosome status resulted unaffected regardless the dose of genistein used immediately or after 1 hr incubation (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2). These results are in agreement with those of Morillo-Rodriguez et al. (2012) and Baumber et al. (2005), who did not find any differences in viability, motility parameters or acrosome status after the addition of butylated hy-



**Figure 3.** Immunofluorescence pattern of PY in frozen-thawed equine sperm. Sperm were incubated in freezing extender for 1 h at 37 °C (A: fluorescence; B: bright field) or in MW+Bic for 1 h (C: fluorescence; D: bright field). Bar =  $20 \,\mu$ m.

droxytoluene, ascorbic acid or alpha-tocopherol to the freezing extender of equine sperm. Genistein is a very well-known general inhibitor of protein tyrosine kinases in equine sperm (Gonzalez-Fernandez et al., 2013), so its use in freezing extenders could theoretically help to modulate the PY that takes place after thawing (De Andrade et al., 2012). However, in our study, we did not observe an increase in PY after sperm thawing (time 0) or after 1 hr incubation in cryopreservation extender, so genistein did not induce any changes in PY (Table 2).

J HELLENIC VET MED SOC 2015, 66(4) ПЕКЕ 2015, 66(4) ۲

Pommer et al. (2003) postulated that thawed equine spermatozoa are more susceptible to undergo PY than fresh sperm when incubated under capacitating conditions. These results are not in agreement with those of Parker et al. (2000), who showed lower capacitation inductility in vivo of frozen-thawed equine sperm compared to fresh ejaculates measured by chlortetracycline staining. In our study, equine sperm were incubated in MW+Bic and no significant differences were found between the treatments concerning the frozenthawed sperm (p > 0.05; Table 3). However, significant differences in PY positive staining were found between fresh (28.5%  $\pm$  2.6; mean  $\pm$  S.E.M.) and thaved equine sperm (10.7%  $\pm$  1.4; mean  $\pm$  S.E.M.) after 1 hr incubation in MW+Bic in contrast to the work by Pommer et al. (2003), while our results were in agreement with those of Parker et al. (2000).

In this regard, Thomas et al. (2006) found a different PY pattern using western blotting in fresh compared to frozen-thawed equine sperm, while De Andrade et al. (2012) reported a higher PY increase in frozen vs. fresh sperm using flow cytometry. Taken together, all the previously mentioned works and our results suggest that the increase in capacitation-like phenomena in frozen-thawed equine sperm likely varies depending on the methodological approach used. In addition, stallion to stallion variability to PY induction in vitro (Gonzalez-Fernandez et al., 2012a) and to withstand the freezing-thawing cycles (Loomis and Graham, 2008) can also explain this apparent divergence. Furthermore, as different breeds were used between studies, there might be differences among their cryocapacitation status or susceptibility, and these facts need to be also taken in to account. Nevertheless, our results did not show any significant increase in PY compared to fresh sperm, reflecting that cryopreservation does not increase PY in equine sperm nor enhances their susceptibility to PY induction. The fact that the addition of genistein does not significantly improve any of the parameters measured in the present work may suggest that excessive ROS production prior, or during freezing may not be the main change which put in risk the equine sperm quality. Instead, other damaging events like cold shock (Martorana et al., 2014) or structural damage due to osmotic shock (Gonzalez-Fernandez et al., 2012b) seem to be more important.

## **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

In conclusion we demonstrated that in frozen-thawed equine sperm the use of genistein does not render any advantages in terms of viability, total or progressive motility, acrosome-intactness or modulation of PY. Therefore, to improve post-thaw sperm quality more effort has to be made to diminish the negative impact of other freezing-related changes.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Supported by European funds FEDER through the COMPETE program and by national funding of the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, project: PTDC/CVT/108456/2008. BM-G was funded by a postdoctoral grant of the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia by the Programa Operacional Potencial Humano (POPH), reference: SFRH/BPD/84354/2012 (Portugal). LG-F was supported by a postdoctoral grant of the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia by the Programa Operacional Potencial grant of the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia by the Programa Operacional Potencial grant of the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia by the Programa Operacional Potencial Humano (POPH), reference: SFRH/BPD/85532/2012 (Portugal).

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT**

None of the authors have any conflicts of interest to declare.

J HELLENIC VET MED SOC 2015, 66(4) ПЕКЕ 2015, 66(4)

#### REFERENCES

- Aitken RJ, Baker MA (2006) Oxidative stress, sperm survival and fertility control. Mol Cell Endocrinol 250:66-69.
- Bailey JL, Bilodeau JF, Cormier N (2000) Semen cryopreservation in domestic animals: a damaging and capacitating phenomenon. J Androl 21:1-7.
- Ball BA, Vo A (2002) Detection of lipid peroxidation in equine spermatozoa based upon the lipophilic fluorescent dye C11-BODIPY581/591. J Androl 23:259-269.
- Ball BA, Vo AT, Baumber J (2001) Generation of reactive oxygen species by equine spermatozoa. Am J Vet Res 62:508-515.
- Baumber J, Ball BA, Gravance CG, Medina V, vies-Morel MC (2000) The effect of reactive oxygen species on equine sperm motility, viability, acrosomal integrity, mitochondrial membrane potential, and membrane lipid peroxidation. J Androl 21:895-902.
- Baumber J, Ball BA, Linfor JJ (2005) Assessment of the cryopreservation of equine spermatozoa in the presence of enzyme scavengers and antioxidants. Am J Vet Res 66:772-779.
- Baumber J, Ball BA, Linfor JJ, Meyers SA (2003a) Reactive oxygen species and cryopreservation promote DNA fragmentation in equine spermatozoa. J Androl 24:621-628.
- Baumber J, Sabeur K, Vo A, Ball BA (2003b) Reactive oxygen species promote tyrosine phosphorylation and capacitation in equine spermatozoa. Theriogenology 60:1239-1247.
- Burnaugh L, Ball BA, Sabeur K, Thomas AD, Meyers SA (2010) Osmotic stress stimulates generation of superoxide anion by spermatozoa in horses. Anim Reprod Sci 117:249-260.
- Cormier N, Bailey JL (2003) A differential mechanism is involved during heparin- and cryopreservation-induced capacitation of bovine spermatozoa. Biol Reprod 69:177-185.
- De Andrade AF, Zaffalon FG, Celeghini EC, Nascimento J, Bressan FF, Martins SM, de Arruda RP (2012) Post-thaw addition of seminal plasma reduces tyrosine phosphorylation on the surface of cryopreserved equine sperm, but does not reduce lipid peroxidation. Theriogenology 77:1866-1872.
- de Lamirande E, Jiang H, Zini A, Kodama H, Gagnon C (1997) Reactive oxygen species and sperm physiology. Rev Reprod 2:48-54.
- de Oliveira RA, Wolf CA, de Oliveira Viu MA, Gambarini ML (2013) Addition of Glutathione to an Extender for Frozen Equine Semen. J Equine Vet Sci 33:1148-1152.
- Garcia BM, Fernandez LG, Ferrusola CO, Salazar-Sandoval C, Rodriguez AM, Martinez HR, Tapia JA, Morcuende D, Pena FJ (2011) Membrane lipids of the stallion spermatozoon in relation to sperm quality and susceptibility to lipid peroxidation. Reprod Domest Anim 46:141-148.
- Gibb Z, Butler TJ, Morris LH, Maxwell WM, Grupen CG (2013) Quercetin improves the postthaw characteristics of cryopreserved sex-sorted and nonsorted stallion sperm. Theriogenology 79:1001-1009.
- González-Fernández L, Macías-García B, Loux SC, Varner DD, Hinrichs K (2013) Focal adhesion kinases and calcium/calmodulin-dependent protein kinases regulate protein tyrosine phosphorylation in stallion sperm. Biol Reprod 88:138.
- González-Fernández L, Macías-García B, Velez IC, Varner DD, Hinrichs K (2012a) Calcium-calmodulin and pH regulate protein tyrosine phosphorylation in stallion sperm. Reproduction 144:411-422.

- González-Fernández L, Morrell JM, Pena FJ, Macías-García B (2012b) Osmotic shock induces structural damage on equine spermatozoa plasmalemma and mitochondria. Theriogenology 78:415-422.
- Guimarães T, Lopes G, Ferreira P, Leal I, Rocha A (2012) Characteristics of stallion epididymal spermatozoa at collection and effect of two refrigeration protocols on the quality of the frozen/thawed sperm cells. Anim Reprod Sci 6:85-89.
- Hammerstedt RH, Graham JK, Nolan JP (1990) Cryopreservation of mammalian sperm: what we ask them to survive. J Androl 11:73-88.
- Loomis PR, Graham JK (2008) Commercial semen freezing: individual male variation in cryosurvival and the response of stallion sperm to customized freezing protocols. Anim Reprod Sci 105 119-128.
- Martorana K, Klooster K, Meyers S (2014) Suprazero cooling rate, rather than freezing rate, determines post thaw quality of rhesus macaque sperm. Theriogenology 81:381-388.
- Menzel VA, Hinsch E, Hagele W, Hinsch KD (2007) Effect of genistein on acrosome reaction and zona pellucida binding independent of protein tyrosine kinase inhibition in bull. Asian J Androl 9 650-658.
- Metcalf ES (2007) The efficient use of equine cryopreserved semen. Theriogenology 68:423-428.
- Morillo-Rodriguez A, Macías-García B, Tapia JA, Ortega-Ferrusola C, Pena FJ (2012) Consequences of butylated hydroxytoluene in the freezing extender on post-thaw characteristics of stallion spermatozoa in vitro. Andrologia 44 Suppl 1 688-695.
- Parker NA, Bailey TL, Bowen JM, Ley WB, Purswell BJ, Dascanio JJ (2000) In vitro and xenogenous capacitation-like changes of fresh, cooled, and cryopreserved stallion sperm as assessed by a chlortetracycline stain. J Androl 21:45-52.
- Pommer AC, Rutllant J, Meyers SA (2002) The role of osmotic resistance on equine spermatozoal function. Theriogenology 58:1373-1384.
- Pommer AC, Rutllant J, Meyers SA (2003) Phosphorylation of protein tyrosine residues in fresh and cryopreserved stallion spermatozoa under capacitating conditions. Biol Reprod 68:1208-1214.
- Record IR, Dreosti IE, Mcinerney JK (1995) The Antioxidant Activity of Genistein In-Vitro. J of Nutr Bioch 6:481-485.
- Schembri MA, Major DA, Suttie JJ, Maxwell WM, Evans G (2002) Capacitation-like changes in equine spermatozoa throughout the cryopreservation process. Reprod Fertil Dev 14:225-233.
- Sieme H, Harrison RA, Petrunkina AM (2008) Cryobiological determinants of frozen semen quality, with special reference to stallion. Anim Reprod Sci 107:276-292.
- Silva PF, Gadella BM (2006) Detection of damage in mammalian sperm cells. Theriogenology 65:958-978.
- Thomas AD, Meyers SA, Ball BA (2006) Capacitation-like changes in equine spermatozoa following cryopreservation. Theriogenology 65:1531-1550.
- Thomson LK, Fleming SD, Aitken RJ, De Iuliis GN, Zieschang JA, Clark AM (2009) Cryopreservation-induced human sperm DNA damage is predominantly mediated by oxidative stress rather than apoptosis. Hum Reprod 24:2061-2070.
- Visconti PE, Bailey JL, Moore GD, Pan D, Olds-Clarke P, Kopf GS (1995) Capacitation of mouse spermatozoa. I. Correlation between the capacitation state and protein tyrosine phosphorylation. Development 121:1129-1137.

J HELLENIC VET MED SOC 2015, 66(4) ПЕКЕ 2015, 66(4)

۲