

# The Onderstepoort PD Challenge: Is the Breed'n Betsy® simulator as good as live cow training for bovine pregnancy diagnosis?

Annandale A, Holm DE, Annandale CH and Fosgate GT | Faculty of Veterinary Science | University of Pretoria | South Africa



Increasing veterinary student numbers and demand for improved skills constrain current teaching methods. The objective was to determine if training method affects accuracy of bovine pregnancy diagnosis (PD) by trans-rectal palpation.

Fourth year veterinary students (n = 138) were exposed to a single PD training session in groups using either simulator training on Breed'n Betsy® (BB) or conventional training on live cows (C). Students completed a questionnaire on gender, back-ground and career choice. Students' PD accuracy was determined three weeks after training when each student palpated 6 cows with known pregnancy state. Accuracy of PD was measured as sensitivity and specificity (the ability to correctly identify the presence and absence of pregnancy respectively). Mixed-effects logistic regression included student and cow as random effects and training method as fixed effect.

Sensitivity tended to be lower in the BB than in the C group (0.84 vs 0.90 respectively, OR 0.55, 95% CI 0.29 – 1.05, P = 0.07), sensitivity was lower in students from a city back-ground (OR = 0.43, 95% CI 1.12 – 8.93, P = 0.02) and also in cows <6 months pregnant (OR 0.28, 95% CI 0.15 – 0.53, P < 0.01), adjusted for other factors. Within cows <6 months pregnant, sensitivity was lower in the BB than the C group (0.68 and 0.84 respectively, OR 0.41, 95% CI 0.18 – 0.95, P = 0.04). Specificity was not affected by any of the factors considered.

It was concluded that training on Breed'n Betsy® resulted in lower PD sensitivity in cows <6months pregnant.

The full length manuscript is under review in JVME.

