CASE REPORT:
THE FIRST PREGNANCY OBTAINED IN MIDDLE EAST USING STALLION SEMEN STORED AT 17 ˚C DURING 6 DAYS

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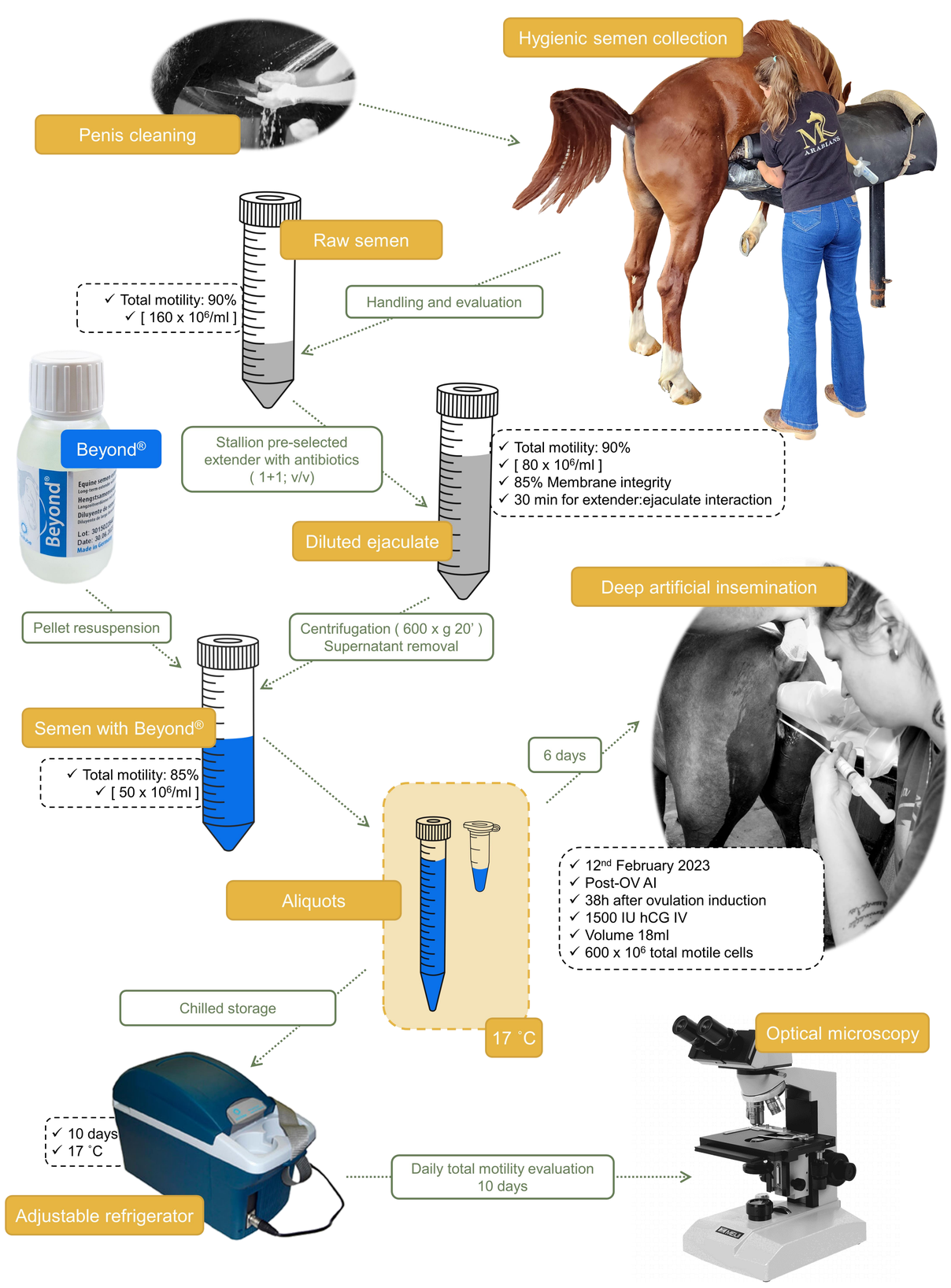
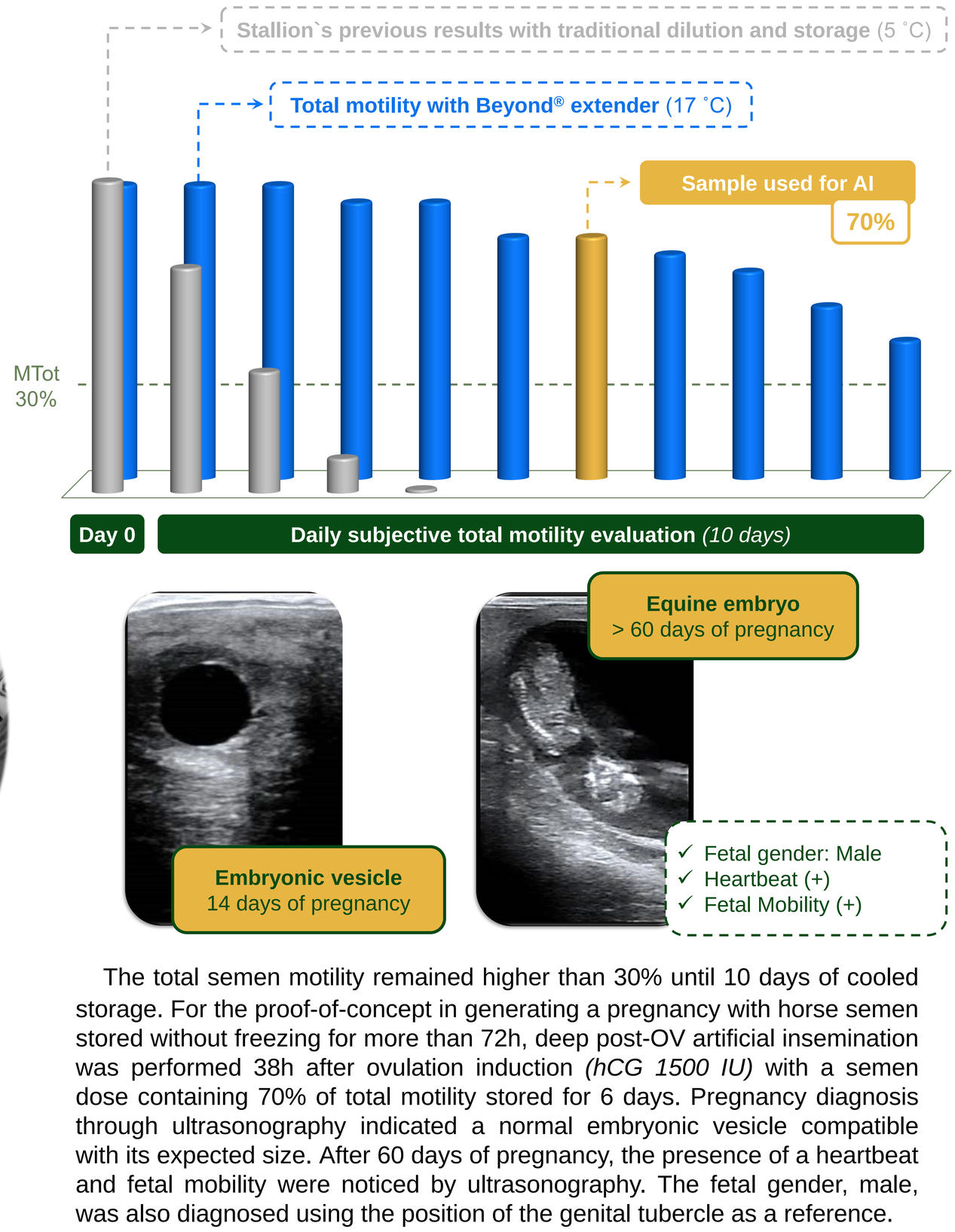
INTRODUCTION

The equine industry is in part fostered by the stallions' semen doses trading who stand out in competitions or due their offspring value. An alternative to minimize the ejaculate's partial disposal, reduce the semen collection frequency, and minimize the ovulations missed due to lack of semen doses has been searched in equine breeding management for many decades. The current commercial extenders allow the semen doses to be stored at 5°C on average for only up to 72 hours post-collection. Moreover, semen survival may vary according to the dilution rate, the extender characteristics used, and the stallion's semen individual preference to the formulas. Stallions with physical, behavioral, and logistical issues do not allow frequent ejaculate collections or reach acceptable semen cooling or freezing. Several of these stallions do not allow the semen to be stored for 72 hours, or sometimes less, while waiting for new inseminations' demands, leading the remaining semen to be discarded. Therefore, the new extender **Beyond®** *(Minitüb GmbH, Tiefenbach, Germany)* proposes refrigeration of doses up to 14 days at 17°C, keeping its quality.

MATERIALS & METHODS



RESULTS



The total semen motility remained higher than 30% until 10 days of cooled storage. For the proof-of-concept in generating a pregnancy with horse semen stored without freezing for more than 72h, deep post-OV artificial insemination was performed 38h after ovulation induction *(hCG 1500 IU)* with a semen dose containing 70% of total motility stored for 6 days. Pregnancy diagnosis through ultrasonography indicated a normal embryonic vesicle compatible with its expected size. After 60 days of pregnancy, the presence of a heartbeat and fetal mobility were noticed by ultrasonography. The fetal gender, male, was also diagnosed using the position of the genital tubercle as a reference.

CONCLUSION

Herein we report the first pregnancy obtained after using a semen dose of a known "bad cooler" stallion semen diluted with a new extender (**Beyond®**) and stored at 17˚C for 6 days in the Middle East.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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