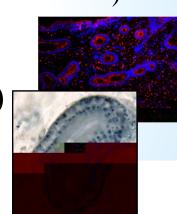
Studies on the Sperm Storage Mechanism in the Hen Oviduct

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The fertility of hens is one of the important issue of poultry production. It is well known that the unique function of sperm storage tubules (SST) in the oviduct to store sperm for a prolonged period enables hens to lay a series of fertilized eggs. The function of SST is thereby considered as one of the main intrinsic factors that affect the hen fertility. The aim of this study was to determine mechanisms of sperm storage in SST and the effect of involved factors on hen fertility. Specifically, the role of fatty acids and exosomes secreted from SST cells in sperm survivability was investigated.