

# The Long Term Recurrence of Digital Dermatitis after Treatment with Lincomycin HCl on a Commercial Dairy

**B. Nuccitelli, BS, MS; S.L. Berry, DVM, MPVM**  
*University of California, Davis, Department of Animal Science*

## Introduction

Digital dermatitis (DD) is a contagious, superficial dermatitis, affecting the feet of cattle, often resulting in clinical lameness. This study was designed to follow 30 dairy cows with DD for 11 months after treatment to determine recurrence.

## Materials and Methods

The study herd milked about 1,200 Holstein cows in a freestall facility. The herd had a pre-study DD prevalence of approximately 50%.

Thirty cows with active, painful DD on one or both rear feet were enrolled in the study. On day 1, cows were restrained on a hydraulic tilt-table and the feet were examined and photographed. Cows were treated with 10 g Lincomix Soluble Powder mixed with water to form a paste, which was applied to a 4X4 gauze, and held in place with a Vet Wrap bandage. Each month thereafter,

all remaining cows were restrained on the tilt-table where feet were examined and photographed. Cows with lesions that recurred were treated as necessary.

## Results

Of the 24 cows that were present at the end of the study: 3 (13%) were treated only once, 14 (58%) were treated twice, 7 (29%) were treated three or more times. Eleven of the 14 cows treated twice were treated only on days 1 and 341. The recurrence rate for 11 months was 88%.

## Significance

The results of this study demonstrate that control of DD needs to be continuously monitored. Treatment and control strategies need to be re-evaluated periodically to keep the disease at an acceptable level.