

- 3) Is the new infection rate in dry cows greater than that in heifers? If not, go to question 4. If it is, do the environments in which the heifers and cows are housed differ?
- 4) Is the new infection rate in heifers greater than that in dry cows? If so, do the environments in which the heifers and cows are housed differ?
- 5) Is the new infection rate in both heifers and dry cows elevated?

Results and Conclusions

This algorithm forms the basis of milk quality investigations performed by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Veterinary Medicine. It has proven an effective way of structuring an action plan for an individual farm, which will have the greatest impact on milk quality over the shortest period of time.

Effect of Left Displacement of Abomasum Corrected by Toggle Pin Suture on Lactation, Reproduction and Health of Holstein Dairy Cows

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Introduction

This study evaluated the effect of left displacement of the abomasum (LDA) corrected by toggle pin suture (TPS) on lactation performance, reproduction and health in Holstein dairy cows in a commercial dairy farm.

Material and Methods

Cows diagnosed with LDA and corrected by the TPS procedure (188 cows) during the first 70 days postpartum were matched with control herdmates (186 controls) according to lactation number, calving date, and previous lactation 305-day mature equivalent milk yield. Cows were grouped according to parity and days-in-milk and fed the same total mixed ration throughout a 321-day lactation. Data collected included yields of milk and 3.5% fat-corrected milk (FCM); concentration and yields of milk fat; somatic cell count; and incidence of mastitis, abortion, death and culling, in addition to reproductive parameters.

Results

Cows affected with LDA corrected by the TPS procedure produced less milk and tended to produce less 3.5% FCM than control cows, but production decreased only during the first four months of lactation. Left displacement of abomasum did not affect the interval from calving to conception and conception rates, but extended the period from calving to first postpartum artificial insemination. Incidence of abortions and mastitis was not influenced by LDA. Cows affected with LDA remained in the study for a shorter period than their control herdmates, and a higher proportion of LDA cows were sold or died. Death and culling were more pronounced immediately after the diagnosis of LDA and the TPS procedure.

Conclusions

Further evaluation of LDA corrected by TPS is needed in different types of dairy management around the country.