Results

On SD 14, cure rate (as defined above) for the 2.2 mg CE/kg BW group was significantly higher than that of the control group. On SD 14, 10 or 6 there was no evidence that the 1.1 mg CE/kg BW treatment group had a significantly higher cure rate (as defined above) than the control group. However, expanding the definition of cure to include the other clinical observations (HR, SI, RC, DS), the 1.1 mg CE/kg BW dose was distinguishable, statistically, from the control group. During the five days of treatment, the two ceftiofur treatment groups had similar patterns in RT reduction that were significantly lower ($p \leq 0.012$) than the pattern in RT reduction observed in the control group.

Conclusions

Ceftiofur HCl administered at 2.2 mg CE/kg BW for five days is efficacious for the treatment of acute post-partum metritis in the dairy cow. By expanding the definition of cure, the 1.1 mg CE/kg BW dose could be distinguished from control and, therefore, is defined as effective for the treatment of acute post-partum metritis.

Table 1.

Treatment Group	Cure rate (%) Study Day					
	6		10		14	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Saline	23	117	44	118	63	116
1.1 mg CE/kg BW	27	117	47	122	66	123
2.2 mg CE/kg BW	NT†		NT		77*	123

†Not tested * Significantly greater than saline (p=0.006; one sided)

Descriptive Epidemiology of Udder Cleft Dermatitis in a Dairy Herd with Sarcoptic Mange

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Introduction

Udder rot, or intertrigo of the udder, is characterized by foul-smelling, necrotic lesions between the lateral udder and medial thigh or between the halves of the udder. The etiology is unknown, but suspected causes include periparturient edema and mite infestation. The purpose of our study was to describe the occurrence of udder cleft dermatitis in a dairy herd experiencing an outbreak of sarcoptic mange.

Materials and Methods

The investigation was carried out in February 2000 in a New York dairy herd. Cows either milking or within one month of calving were examined for presence or

absence of udder cleft dermatitis by using a mirror to view the ventral udder. Mange lesions of the tail head or escutcheon were assigned a score of 0, 1, 2, or 3, with 0 corresponding to no visible lesions and 3 representing the most severe lesions. Skin scrapings were collected from a subset of cows.

Results and Conclusions

Of the 1597 cows and late-gestation heifers examined, 18% were found to have lesions between the halves of the udder. These usually were located at the cranial edge of the cleft between the two front quarters. Sizes of the lesions ranged from approximately 2 to 10 cm in diameter with varying amounts of purulent exudate, crusting and necrosis. Udder cleft dermatitis was significantly more common in older animals ($P < 0.0001$). The herd had widespread mite infestation. Forty-three of 56 skin scrapings from the escutcheon or tail head were positive for *Sarcoptes scabiei* and 88% of cows had a mange score > 0. There was a positive association ($P < 0.05$) between mange score and the presence of udder lesions for first- and second-lactation cows, but for third-lactation cows, those with a mange score of 3 had a lower prevalence of udder cleft dermatitis than cows with less-severe mange lesions.

In first-lactation cows, udder cleft dermatitis was less common in the first four months of lactation than later ($P = 0.04$). In contrast to what has been reported for sores between the udder and thigh, the udder cleft lesions in this herd were more common in older cows and were found in cows in all stages of lactation and in the latter part of the dry period. The association between high mange scores and the occurrence of udder cleft dermatitis is consistent with a common etiology, but does not prove causality.

Treatment of Cows with Retained Fetal Membranes with Ceftiofur

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Introduction

Retention of fetal membranes occurs after 5 to 15% of calvings. One of the most common treatments is the manual removal of the retained membranes and a local antibiotic treatment. An additional systemic therapy with antibiotic drugs is recommended for cows with a body temperature ≥39.5°C. (103.1°F). However, efficiency of manual removal and local antibiotic treatment is under discussion. The objective of this study was to compare this common treatment of retained fetal membranes to a protocol without manual removal or local intrauterine administration of antiobiotics, but use of ceftiofur as a systemic antibiotic treatment in case of elevated temperature.

Material and Methods

The trial was conducted on a commercial dairy farm in Germany, housing 1200 Holstein Friesian cows. Cows that retained fetal membranes for more than 12 hours were assigned alternatively to two treatment groups. For both groups, rectal temperature was measured daily for 10 days after enrollment. In Group 1, no manual removal of the fetal membranes or local treatment was conducted. Only cows with a rectal temperature >39.5°C (101.3°F) received a systemic antibiotic treatment with 600mg ceftiofur intramuscularly on three consecutive days. In case of elevated temperature on Day 3, treatment was conducted for a total of five days. In Group 2, manual removal of fetal membranes