

Studies on Milk Flow in Cows with Acquired Milk-flow Disorders

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Introduction

The objective of this study was to determine milk flow in cows with acquired milk-flow disorders.

Materials and Methods

Maximal quarter milk flow was determined electronically by using one Lactocorder¹ per quarter in 97 cows that had been referred to the Veterinary Clinic Babenhausen between May 1999 and January 2000 because of a milk-flow disorder from a single teat. In 49% of the cases, the reason for the milk-flow disorder was a rupture in the teat canal area with inversion or eversion of tissue in 47%, a simple rupture in the area of the teat canal (without in- or eversion of tissue); and in 4% of the cases, other reasons. Reasons for milk-flow disorders were diagnosed using endoscopy. Treatment consisted of surgical removal of tissue that disturbed

milk flow and surgical widening of narrowed canals, respectively. Treated teats were administered with an antibiotic, bandaged and rested (not milked) for several days, and then milked again. All teats were re-examined one and six months later.

Results and Conclusions

Before surgery maximal milk flow from teats with milk-flow disorders was significantly lower than in teats without milk-flow disorders. On re-examination maximal milk flow was significantly greater than before surgery. Maximal quarter milk flow increased with days cows were in milk when referred, increasing milk yield, decreasing somatic cell count and wider and shorter teat canals. We conclude from this study that in cows with milk-flow disorders, quarter milk flow may be determined using Lactocorders.

¹Lactocorder; FOSS, Hillerod/Denmark