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Abstract

Use of composite milk samples for diagnosis of *Staphylococcus aureus* mastitis in dairy cattle

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Reliability of use of composite milk samples for diagnosis of intramammary *Staphylococcus aureus* infections in dairy cattle was compared with that of individual gland samples. Microbiologic culturing of composite and individual gland milk samples collected from cows suspected of having subclinical mastitis revealed a relative sensitivity of 0.63 for composite samples, with relative specificity of 0.98. Factors influencing the relative sensitivity of composite samples

were the number of infected glands per cow, the amount of S aureus shedding from infected glands, and the proportion of the composite sample obtained from each gland. If 3 consecutive samples had been collected in 95% of the cows with at least 1 infected gland, S aureus would have been found in at least 1 of the 3 composite samples. Increasing the inoculum volume from composite samples from 0.01 to 0.05 ml increased the relative sensitivity.

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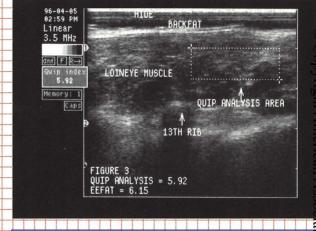


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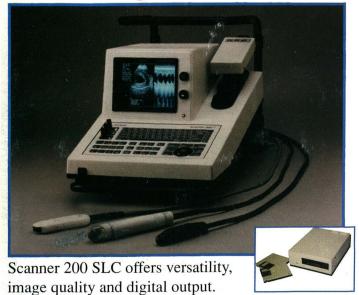


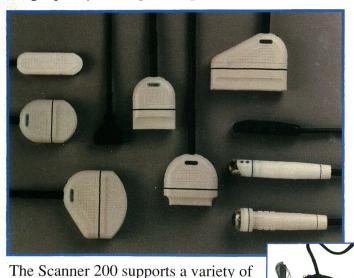
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