

Occurrence of mastitis pathogens in goat colostrum

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Introduction

Intramammary infections are common in dairy small ruminants. The etiologic agents are diverse; however, mastitides of bacterial origin occur more frequently. Asymptomatic mastitis is the most common form of mastitis in dairy goat herds in Brazil, and the predominant etiological agent in this type of mastitis is coagulase negative *Staphylococcus* (CNS).

Materials and Methods

Lacteal secretions from 89 udder halves of Alpine and Saanen goats in the puerperal phase were examined. The animals were obtained from a dairy farm in the city of São José do Rio Preto, São Paulo, Brazil. Before the kid gained access to the udder, the first 3 squirts of colostrum were evaluated for macroscopic characteristics. In addition, approximately 3 mL of colostrum were collected after teat antisepsis and submitted to microbiological isolation. Routine techniques were used for isolation.

Results

From the 89 samples examined, 56 (63%) did not have macroscopic changes or positive bacterial cultures;

20 (23%) presented macroscopic changes and negative bacterial isolation; 10 (11%) did not present visible changes in the milk, but had positive cultures; and 3 (3%) showed changes in the milk and had positive microbial isolation. Among the isolated agents, CNS was the most common (12 samples), whereas *Bacillus* sp was isolated only in 1 sample.

Significance

From the data obtained, it can be concluded that asymptomatic mastitis was the most frequent form of mastitis. In addition, the samples with macroscopic changes were observed and no bacterial isolation suggest that other pathogenic agents may be involved, or that these changes were due to the aseptic inflammatory process of the mammary gland. The study emphasizes the importance of CNS in goat mastitis, which is usually present without any clinical signs. Nevertheless, it can cause persistent infections which result in higher somatic cell counts and lower quantity and quality of milk.

Lying behavior as an early predictor of ketosis in early lactation dairy goats

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Introduction

Goats frequently have multiple fetuses, a known risk factor for negative energy balance prior to kidding

(Brozos et al, *Vet Clin North Am Food Anim Pract*, 2011). This state, coupled with increased energy demands of milk production, also increases the risk of ketosis after kidding. Ketosis is a serious metabolic condition that