A Prospective Randomized Field Study to Determine the Efficacy of a Serpens spp Vaccine Combined with Topical Treatment with Lincomycin HCl for Treatment of Papillomatous Digital Dermatitis (Footwarts) on a California Dairy

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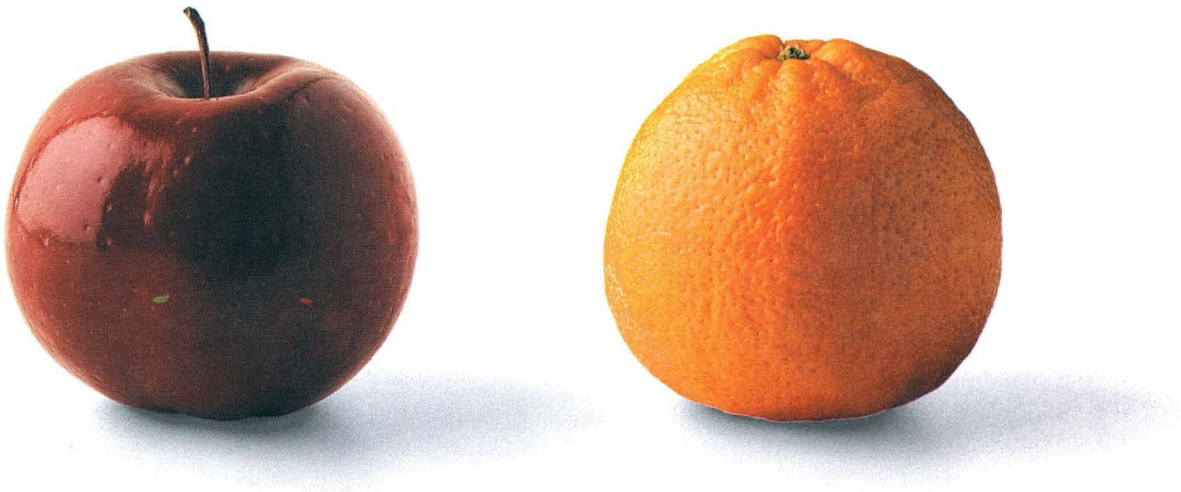
Fifty-nine cows with active, painful Papillomatous Digital Dermitis (PDD) were randomly assigned to control (n=29) or vaccinate (n=30) groups on day 1. Cows were enrolled in the study based on the presence of a visible lesions on one or both rear heels and a pain response. The pain response was elicited by the use of a forceful stream of water from a backpack sprayer capable of attaining 85 psi. Cows were evaluated for lesion score (0-4), pain response (0-2), color (0-2), and size score (0-2) at enrollment (d 1) and at each of the subsequent examinations (d 30, 50, 70, and 110). Vaccinate cows were vaccinated on days 1, 14, and 43. Cows were examined while standing in stanchions on days 1, 50, and 70 and were examined while restrained on a hydraulic tilt-table on days 30 and 110. All cows were treated with 8 g Lincomix Soluble Powder((3.2 g lincomycin HCl) mixed with deionized water to make a slurry and held in place with an elastic bandage. Cows feet were photographed with a 100-300 mm telephoto lens from a distance of about 1.5 m while examined in stanchions and with a 100 mm macro lens at 1:4 magnification while restrained on the tilt-table. Lesions improved on all cows during the course of the trial. Lesion score, pain response, color score, and clinical cure were similar for all cows on day 1 and 30, improved on days 50 and 70, and showed evidence of recurrence by day 110. There were no significant differences between control and vaccinate cows at any of the evaluations. Clinical response to lincomycin was similar to other studies we have conducted.



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