

# Recovery from subclinical intramammary infections during the dry period

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## Objective

To evaluate the elimination of *Streptococcus (Strep.) agalactiae*, *Mycoplasma (M.) bovis*, *Staphylococcus (Staph.) aureus* and *Strep. uberis*, from infected udder quarters during the dry period.

## Materials and methods

Cow udder quarter aseptic milk samples were collected at the dry-off and at first milking after calving between November 2014 and May 2015 from one Estonian dairy herd. Bacterial DNA of *M. bovis*, *S. aureus*, *Str. agalactiae* and *Str. uberis* was detected by using commercial qPCR test kit Mastit 4B (DNA Diagnostic A/S, Denmark).

**Table 1. Recovery and new intramammary infection rate of four mastitis pathogens during the dry period (n = 513 paired udder quarter milk samples).**

	Recovery (%) <sup>1</sup>	New IMI rate (%) <sup>2</sup>
<i>Mycoplasma bovis</i>	13 / 15 (87.0)	15 / 498 (3.0)
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	59 / 63 (94.0)	13 / 450 (3.0)
<i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i>	127 / 132 (96.0)	9 / 381 (2.0)
<i>Streptococcus uberis</i>	23 / 23 (100.0)	15 / 490 (3.0)

<sup>1</sup> Number of negative udder quarter milk samples post-calving, positive at dry-off / number of positive udder quarter milk samples at dry-off

<sup>2</sup> Number of positive udder quarter milk samples post-calving, negative at dry-off / number of negative udder quarter milk samples at dry-off

## Conclusions

The recovery from subclinical IMI during the dry period was high. Results of this study indicate that spontaneous recovery from subclinical *M. bovis* IMI occurs during the dry period. However, this should be evaluated in further studies with larger sample size.



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