Nordic Guidelines for Mastitis Therapy

Agreed in unanimity at The NMSM Annual Conference June 12, 2009, Ideon Science Park, Lund, Sweden

General policy

• Only acute clinical mastitis cases should be chosen for treatment decision.

• Subclinical mastitis in general has too high self-cure or too low cure rate in proportion to the treatment costs during lactation.*

• Subclinical mastitis should instead be treated during the dry period.

• Pronounced restrictive use should be regarded for *cephalosporins* and *quinolones*.

* Exception from this rule could be made in herds during eradication of Streptococcus agalactiae.





Actions that always should be made regardless of treatment decision

Evaluate prognosis

• If replacement animals are at hand culling should always be considered an alternative if prognosis is doubtful (ex. several quarters infected).

• A comparison between the cost for culling vs. the estimated cost for treatment should always be made.

Biosecurity actions

• Analyze if future effective segregation is possible if the case is a contagious mastitis.

• Drying of chronically infected teats could be used, if remembering it is not the same as segregation.

Bacteriologic culturing

• The main purpose is to continuously monitor the mastitis pattern of the herd.

• A certified mastitis laboratory is considered the best choice.

• Home culturing could be valuable if correction of drug choice can be expected.

Supportive treatment

• Milk the cow, using the milking machine, once or twice more per day.

• Move cows in loose housing to a sick pen for optimal cow comfort, cubical hygiene, watering and feeding.

Additional treatment on demand

• Oxytocin injections for enhancing milk let-down.

- Fluid therapy intravenously or orally.
- Non-Steroid Antiinflammatoric Drugs.

Animal Welfare

• Cows with highly affected physical conditions and great pain should be treated as soon as possible with the drugs available.

• Also, in these cases the same principles for antibiotic choice as presented in this policy should be considered as far as possible.

Treatment follow-up

Evaluation of treatment outcome by the veterinarian:

- Should always take place within 4-8 weeks.
- Repeat the calculation of long-time prognosis and cost for culling.

• Use somatic cell count, clinical symptoms and animal condition in the evaluation.

• If needed, do bacteriological culturing or PCR, and always send these samples to a certified mastitis laboratory.

Antibiotics needed for mastitis therapy in the Nordic countries

- Penicillin G.
- A β-lactamase resistant antibiotic.*
- An antibiotic with effect on gram-negative bacteria legal in the country.
- * Only in case of severe animal welfare conditions.
- Decide further bio-security actions

Antibiotic Treatment

Gram-positive bacteria, β -lactamas-		
First choice	Treatment with Penicillin G.*	
Second choice	Only supportive therapy, no antibiotics.	
Gram-positive bacteria, β -lactamas+		
First choice	Only supportive therapy, no antibiotics.	
Second choice	Treatment with a β -lactamase resistant antibiotic.*, **	
Gram-negative bacteria (E. coli)		
First choice	Only supportive therapy, no antibiotics.	
Second choice	Treatment with an antibiotic effective against gram-negative bacteria.*	
Gram-negative bacteria (<i>Klebsiella spp.</i>)		
First choice	Treatment with med Quinolones.*	
Second choice	Treatment with Trimetoprim Sulfa.*	

* Supportive treatment should be added.

** Only in case of severe animal welfare conditions

Treatment length		
S. aureus*** and Str. uberis	5 days	
Other gram-positive bacteria	4 - 5 days according to severity and herd.	
*** If the clinical symptoms in the udder are considered better but not cured after 5 days, the treatment could be extended for another 1 - 2 days		
Klebsiella spp.	3 days	
Other gram-negative bacteria	3 days	

No growth	Ctop the patibiotic treatment
No growth	stop the antibiotic treatment

Remark: If the animal does not respond to the chosen treatment despite correct antibiotic and dose and protocol, the diagnosis should be confirmed at a certified mastitis laboratory as soon as possible.

The Nordic Health Profile comprises restrictive use of antibiotics, disinfectants and hormones.



Nordic Guidelines for Mastitis Therapy

The Nordic Health Profile:

• A well-designed data base for correct registration of milk production and animal health.

• Preventive health service and breeding strategy based on this database.

• Stall design and management according to highest possible animal welfare demands.

- Restrictive use of antibiotics, disinfectants and hormones.
- Climate concern and economically sound market rules.
- Zero-tolerance for use of growth stimulating substances.

Seminars: NMSM Annual Conference, June 11-13, Molde 2008¹

> NMSM Animal Health Group Meeting, December 10-11, Oslo 2008²

Decision: NMSM Annual Conference June 10-12, Lund 2009³

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The NMSM Animal Health Group, Manifest 2005-04-25

NMSM Animal Health Group has defined The Nordic Health Profile.

This profile is aiming to secure an ethically sound dairy milk production from healthy cows.

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