

CLINICAL MASTITIS TREATMENT PROTOCOL

Milker detects clinical mastitis. Severity score is assigned.

NON-SEVERE CLINICAL CASE

Set up on-farm culture.
Send cow to hospital pen and discard milk.

SEVERE CLINICAL CASE

Do not culture. Treat immediately according to protocol designed by attending veterinarian.

DELAYED TREATMENT

Wait 24 hours for culture results before starting antibiotic therapy.

IMMEDIATE TREATMENT

Start short duration intramammary treatment immediately and adjust treatment plan after 24 hours based on culture results.

CULTURE RESULTS AT 24 HOURS

No Growth or Non-Significant Growth

Do not administer intramammary antibiotic unless medical history of cow indicates that her immune system is compromised. Discard milk until it returns to normal (usually 4-6 days).

Stop treatment. Discard milk until it returns to normal and the antibiotic withholding period has ended.

Gram-Negative Growth

Do not administer intramammary antibiotic unless medical history of cow indicates that her immune system is compromised. If intramammary antibiotic is used, ensure that it has a Gram-negative spectrum.

Stop treatment or if medical history indicates antibiotic therapy may be useful, change to an intramammary drug that has Gram-negative spectrum for short duration.

Gram Positive Growth Non-Specified Organisms

Give intramammary treatment for 1-3 days using narrow spectrum antibiotic.

Stop therapy after completion of 1-3 days of intramammary treatment using narrow spectrum antibiotic.

Gram Positive Growth Likely CNS

Give intramammary treatment for 1-3 days using narrow spectrum antibiotic.

Stop therapy after completion of 1-3 days of intramammary treatment using narrow spectrum antibiotic.

Gram Positive Growth Likely *Streptococci spp.*

Give intramammary treatment short or long duration depending on medical history of cow.

Discontinue intramammary treatment if short duration is appropriate. Continue intramammary treatment if medical history of cow indicates longer duration therapy is justifiable.

Gram Positive Growth Likely *Staph. aureus*

Review medical history of cow before considering treatment. Segregate cow after treatment is completed. Do not treat cows with history of chronic clinical or subclinical infections.