

# E

## Using teat sealers in your herd

The 3 key steps for the proper use of internal teat sealers.

### Step 1: Administer teat sealers correctly

The techniques required are very different to those used with antibiotic dry cow treatment. It's important that you and your staff know how to administer the product correctly.

#### Administer teat sealers *LAST*

- If a cow is to receive antibiotic dry cow treatment (DCT) in conjunction with teat sealer, make sure that the teat sealer is the final product administered.

#### Keep the tubes sterile

- Cold temperatures can make the product hard to instill into the teat. However, do not warm tubes by putting them directly into warm water. Instead, place the tubes in a warm room prior to use or keep in your clean gloved hands.

#### Completely disinfect the teat ends

- Disinfect by vigorously scrubbing the teat opening with a cotton ball and 70% alcohol (or teat wipes) for a minimum of 10 seconds. Check the cotton ball. If it is dirty, repeat the scrub using a clean cotton ball until there is no more dirt seen.

#### Gently close off the top of the teat (closest to the udder) and insert the tube nozzle

- To encourage the product to remain within the teat cistern and canal (rather than in the udder) gently squeeze closed the top of the teat. Remove the tube cap (without touching the tip), gently insert the nozzle into the teat canal and infuse the product. Do not insert the nozzle to its full depth- this can damage the teat end.



*X-ray of a teat showing the position of correctly administered internal teat sealer in the teat cistern and canal.*

## STEP 2: Do not massage the udder after infusing teat sealant

Unlike antibiotic treatments, the infused product must sit in the lower part of the teat.

## STEP 3: Remove teat sealers from freshly calved cows

**It is very important to stop teat sealer entering the bulk tank from fresh cows**

- This can be time consuming especially if you have large batches of cows calving, so make sure you have enough staff available.

**At the first milking, strip each treated quarter at least 10 - 12 times**

- This removes the bulk of the teat sealer so that it does not come in contact with the milk lines or rubberware - remember to wear gloves! This step is necessary even if calves have sucked prior to the first milking.

**Keep milk from fresh cows out of the bulk tank for at least 8 - 10 milkings after calving**

- Small amounts of residual teat sealer will still be present in the milk for the first few days after calving, so it is important that all cows have a minimum period of 8 milkings before milk is included in the bulk tank.

**Preferably use designated clusters and test buckets**

- Teat sealers stick to milk lines and rubberware. Where possible, avoid running milk from treated animals through normal milk lines during the first eight milkings. Milk these cows last and use a test bucket to keep their milk out of the tank.

**Clean milking equipment carefully**

- Residual teat sealer can stick to and form clumps (seen as a greasy white substance) in areas of reduced milk flow, such as milk claws and plate coolers.
- Carefully clean the milking plant to ensure that every effort has been made to prevent residual product from entering the bulk tank.



*Strip each teat 10 - 12 times at the first milking.*

### **Review the cleaning routine in your parlour and update milking staff**

- Take extra care to follow label directions on the cleaning products used. Ensure that the water temperature, chemical concentration, and volume used is according to label directions.

### **Change filter socks regularly**

- Effective filters are crucial to limiting the amount of residual teat sealer entering the bulk tank. Change filter socks regularly, especially if there is visible teat sealer present and leave filters in place during the cleaning phase to stop any product coming in contact with the plate cooler.

*For more information or to discuss which animals to treat, contact your CellCheck advisor.*