PREVALENCE OF SUBCLINICAL MASTITIS IN DAIRY CATTLE IN AND AROUND BANGALORE

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Introduction: Among the various diseases in cattle, MASTITIS is considered as a disease of great economic importance. The present work was conducted with the objective of assaying the prevalence of sub clinical MASTITIS in dairy cattle in and around Bangalore.

Materials and methods: A total 1102 samples from 278 cows were screened for prevalence subclinical MASTITIS. The sub clinical MASTITIS was diagnosed by the milk electric conductivity test using Electronic Milk Checker (Eisai Co. Ltd, Japan). The electrical conductivity value of more than 6.5 milisiems per cm was taken as positive index of subclinical MASTITIS. White side test was also conducted to detect the subclinical MASTITIS in cows (Rao et al.,1981, Marschke and Kitchen, 1985).

Results and discussion: On examination of 1102 milk samples collected from crossbred, Jersey crossbred cows, 330 quarters (29.94%) were found positive for subclinical MASTITIS based on electrical conductivity test. The present finding confirmed the earlier findings of Kuler (2006) and Patil (1994). This indicated that the incidence of subclinical MASTITIS remained almost unchanged when compared to the earlier incidences. There was significant increase (P ≤ 0.01) in the prevalence of subclinical MASTITIS with increase in lactation number up to fifth lactation. The increase in prevalence with lactation number corroborates with the findings of earlier workers (Narayanan and Iya, 1953; Sudeshchander and Baxi,1975; Patel et al., 2000). There was an apparent increase in the prevalence of sub clinical MASTITIS with the increase in milk yield. The prevalence of sub clinical MASTITIS significantly increased (P ≥ 0.05) as the milk yield went high which agrees with the findings of Narayanan and Iya (1953) and Patil (2000).

Conclusion: The prevalence of subclinical MASTITIS in and around Bangalore on screening 1102 milk samples was 29.94 per cent based on electrical conductivity test of milk as well as White side test. The prevalence was different in relation to different quarters. The prevalence was increased as the lactation number increased. The incidence was highest in fifth lactation. Incidence of sub clinical MASTITIS increased as length of lactation and milk yield.

Keywords: Prevalence, MASTITIS, Bangalore