

Mycoplasma bovis peritonitis and omental bursitis after C-section in two Belgian Blue cows

J. Bokma¹, K. van Leenen¹, L. De Cremer¹, F. Boyen² and B. Pardon¹

¹Department of Large Animal Internal Medicine, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University, Salisburylaan 133, 9820 Merelbeke, Belgium; ²Department of Pathology, Bacteriology and Poultry diseases, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University, Salisburylaan 133, 9820 Merelbeke, Belgium

Mycoplasma bovis is known for causing a wide spectrum of diseases, of which pneumonia, otitis, arthritis and mastitis are most common. More recently, *M. bovis* was isolated from postsurgical seroma's. This case report describes two cases of *M. bovis* associated peritonitis, bursitis omentalis and mastitis in Belgian Blue cows.

Two Belgian Blue cows of 2 (B1) and 6 (B2) years old were presented after therapy failure, to the clinic of Large Animal Internal Medicine, one month after caesarean section (CS). Clinical signs started 3-5 days after delivery and clinical examination of B1 showed nasal discharge, mastitis and lameness (possible arthritis of the left shoulder). Ultrasonographic examination of B1 showed focal peritonitis between rumen and the left abdominal wall. The animal was treated with penicillin, neomycin and oxytetracycline, but euthanized nine days later because the peritonitis expanded further despite therapy. B2 showed dehydration, mastitis and bilaterally swollen carpi (possible arthritis). On rectal examination the uterus of B2 was adhered to the CS wound, and ultrasonographic examination showed pneumonia (comet tails and consolidations), multiple liver abscesses, a seroma caudal to the liver, omental bursitis (fluid with fibrin) and peritonitis (free fluid with fibrin) at the level of the reticulum and the right side of the abdomen. B2 was euthanized during explorative laparotomy, for economic reasons. Pathologic examination confirmed earlier findings, except for arthritis. Pure cultures of *M. bovis* were isolated from abdominal fluids and milk, and identified by MALDI-TOF MS using an in-house *M. bovis* specific database (score B1: 2.73; B2: 2.55).

This case report shows that *M. bovis* can either primarily or secondary be involved in post-surgical peritonitis in cattle. Setting a microbiological diagnosis early in the disease process can aid to initiate appropriate antimicrobial treatment earlier.