Hi Folks,

Is anyone aware of any known effects on semen quality of the antibiotic tilmicosin (marketed here in Canada as Micotil)? The question was posed to me by the owner of a bull under our care, but any information in any species would be useful.

Thanks,

Tracey Chenier
University of Guelph

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A word of caution on Micotil use in bulls. I was consulted by a very fine veterinarian on the advisability of using Micotil in bulls for treatment of seminal vesiculitis. When I reminded him that such use is off label (at best) and possibly illegal at worst, he said "you know, I think I heard that bull cough". How common is this loose interpretation? Is micotil being used commonly for seminal vesiculitis?

Bob BonDurant
UC Davis

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Bob,

For what it's worth, I've found it to be my antibiotic of choice for clearing the wbc's from the semen of young bulls that don't have palpable changes in the SVGs. I seem to get an excellent response, while my results with tetracycline, Nuflor or others seem to be hit and miss. I try to get the client to treat the bull twice, 1-2 weeks apart, with a retest is 30 days from the initial exam.

Don Peter

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I see that Tilmicosin is widely used in bulls for respiratory problems (there is are even some bull stations that use it ROUTINELY on their bulls). However, a literature review turns up nothing on its effect on semen. The company tech. services will get back to me with some info.

As an aside, I went into the human literature to see what there was there but found nothing. Later, I discovered that tilmicosin has been shown to be fatal in humans (apparently a warning to that effect appears on the label). This would explain its absence from PubMed!
Rob and Tracey:

I found this reference.


The effect of streptomycin, oxytetracycline, tilmicosin and phenylbutazone on spermatogenesis in bulls.

Barth AD, Wood MR.

Department of Herd Medicine and Theriogenology, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon.

To determine whether declining semen quality associated with health problems may be due to certain antibiotic or anti-inflammatory treatments, semen was collected 3 times per week for up to 42 d from 6 normal bulls after treatment with oxytetracycline, tilmicosin, dihydrostreptomycin, or phenylbutazone. No adverse effects on semen quality were observed.

Ram. K

Hi Rob,

Give me a shout if you have any trouble reaching anyone in Canada. John Merrill would have all the information there is available. I can give you a call as well if you want I have already offered to Tracy.

rod

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