COMPARISON OF OMENTOPEXY VERSUS PYLORO-OMENTOPEXY FOR LEFT DISPLACED ABOMASUM IN DAIRY COWS

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Objectives: The first objective of this study was to gather long-term results concerning reproductive performance and productive longevity of dairy cows surgically treated for left displaced abomasum (LDA). Secondly, cows treated with two different surgical techniques (omentopexy and pyloro-omentopexy) were compared to each other and the herd as a whole to determine any reproductive performance or cull rate differences.

Methodology: This was a retrospective study of cows from one farm (Purdue University Dairy) that were treated surgically for LDA over a 5-year time period. All cows were treated by either an omentopexy (OM) or a pyloro-omentopexy (PLOM) based on clinician preference. The dairy and hospital records were reviewed after the last treatment cow left the herd to determine if there had been any reoccurrence of LDA, the reason culling, subsequent lactations, calving intervals, age at the time of surgery and the time between the most recent freshening and surgery to correct the LDA.

Results: Fifty-eight cows were treated with the PLOM technique while 29 were treated by OM. The mean (± SD) age of the PLOM cows at surgery was not significantly different (P=0.318) than the OM cows. Fifty-six cows completed a minimum of one subsequent lactation after LDA surgery, 32 of those cows had 2 subsequent lactations, 16 cows had 3 subsequent lactations and one cow had 4 lactations after surgery. Seventy two percent of the OM cows remained in the herd to have another calf while only 60% of the PLOM cows calved after surgery. The median time to the first post-operative calving for 21 OM cows was not different from the 35 PLOM cows that calved. The median time that the LDA cows remained in the herd was 566 days and there were no differences in the two treatment groups. Foot and leg LAMENESS led to the culling of 28% of the treatment cows, reproductive failure 21% and MASTITIS 13%. These percentages were similar to the entire herd. There was a reoccurrence of LDA in 4 of the 29 (14%) OM cows while none (0) of the 58 PLOM cows had a reoccurrence of LDA (P = 0.011).

Conclusions: The cows in this study had similar cull rates and reasons as the rest of the herd over their productive time in the herd. There were no differences in the parameters reviewed between the OM and the PLOM groups with the exception of a 14% reoccurrence of LDA in the OM group and no reoccurrence of LDA in the PLOM group rate.