Corynebacterium bovis is a contagious, Gram-positive mastitis-causing pathogen. *C. bovis* will typically produce little to no growth on blood agar after 24 hours of culture, but it will show creamy, gray, or white nonhemolytic colonies at 48 hours. *C. bovis* is mildly pathogenic and will usually cause only a mild increase in somatic cell count and a slight reduction in milk production. Information in this publication was summarized from the National Mastitis Council’s Laboratory Handbook on Bovine Mastitis (Hogan et al. 1999).

**Where are these organisms found?**

*C. bovis* will colonize the teat canal; thus, the teat canal as well as the infected udders will act as reservoirs for infection.

**How does *C. bovis* spread to the mammary gland?**

This pathogen is contagious and will therefore spread from cow to cow at milking.

**How can you prevent and control mastitis caused by *C. bovis***?

Proper milking procedures, including the use of effective post-milking teat disinfectants, will help to reduce the number of new infections. After unit detachment, the application of a proven post-milking teat disinfectant should be applied with coverage over at least two-thirds of the teat barrel. The exception to this are post-dips with the active ingredient linear dodecylbenzene sulfonic acid, which are not effective against *C. bovis*. Dry cow therapy is very effective in eliminating this pathogen.

**When are *C. bovis* mastitis infections most likely to occur?**

New infections can occur at any time during lactation. Prevalence of *C. bovis* is very low in herds utilizing an efficacious post-dip.

**How likely are *C. bovis*-infected quarters to be cured?**

Dry cow therapy is very effective in eliminating *C. bovis*. Antibiotic therapy during lactation is not recommended.

**Quick Notes**

- *C. bovis* is a contagious pathogen that colonizes the teat canal.
- Effective post-milking disinfectants will dramatically reduce the *C. bovis* infection rate.
- Dry cow therapy is very effective in eliminating *C. bovis*.

**References**