

Helping Producers Make the Right Call on Mastitis Treatment

By Jennifer Roberts, DVM, Boehringer Ingelheim

Judicious antibiotic use starts with smart decision-making, and that starts with us as veterinarians. The *AABP Guidelines for Judicious Therapeutic Use of Antimicrobials in Cattle* provides a strong foundation: Treat only when necessary, and use the right product, at the right dose, for the right duration. But for producers juggling labor shortages, animal care and economic stressors, those decisions aren't always clear-cut.

Veterinarians are in a unique position to lead antibiotic stewardship on dairies. From teaching how to recognize when antibiotics aren't needed, to setting up culturing protocols and recommending effective treatment, our guidance can shape on-farm habits that protect animal health — and antibiotic efficacy — for the long term.

Teach producers to diagnose, not just detect

When producers see abnormal milk, their first instinct is often to reach for a tube. But not every case warrants treatment. Studies show only one-third of all mastitis cases require antibiotic treatment, primarily those caused by Gram-positive infections.¹

Encourage producers to make targeted treatment decisions by identifying Gram-positive infections through culturing. One study showed pathogen-based treatment of mastitis resulted in:²



Consistent results

No differences in days to clinical cure, milk yield, linear score or culling.



Decreased time out of the tank

5.8 days' pathogen-based treatment (PB) vs. 8.8 days' blanket treatment (BT).



Reduced antibiotic use

More than 65% of mild and moderate clinical mastitis cases in this study wouldn't have been treated if all cows had been enrolled in the pathogen-based protocol.



Use the right treatment duration

If treatment is warranted, antibiotic stewardship continues with selecting the right treatment duration. Many producers are inclined to treat mastitis until milk appears visually normal, which is why five-day treatments have become common. However, this may be leading producers to over-treat with antibiotics.

We can help producers judiciously use antibiotics by recommending protocols focused on treating the infection, not the inflammation. With intramammary antibiotics proven effective against Gram-positive mastitis, a two-treatment regimen, like using TODAY® (cephapirin sodium), is typically enough to clear the infection.³

Lead with confidence

Mastitis is complex, but teaching our clients how to prevent new infections, diagnose before treating, and to use a short-duration tube simplifies decision-making. Our expertise doesn't just improve cow care — it helps reduce costs, minimize antibiotic use, and keep dairies sustainable.

**TREAT WITH
FEWER ANTIBIOTICS
WITHOUT
SACRIFICING
EFFICACY.**

In a large multi-herd study comparing the efficacy of treatment with ToDAY® (cephapirin sodium) to treatment with Spectramast® LC (ceftiofur hydrochloride), the bacteriological cure rate for non-severe Gram-positive pathogens was:³

68%

for a 12-hour treatment with ToDAY®.

67%

for a five-day treatment with Spectramast LC.

ToDAY RESIDUE WARNINGS:

Milk that has been taken from animals during treatment and for 96 hours after the last treatment must not be used for food. Treated animals must not be slaughtered for food until four days after the last treatment. Administration of more than the prescribed dose may lead to residue of antibiotic in milk longer than 96 hours.

References:

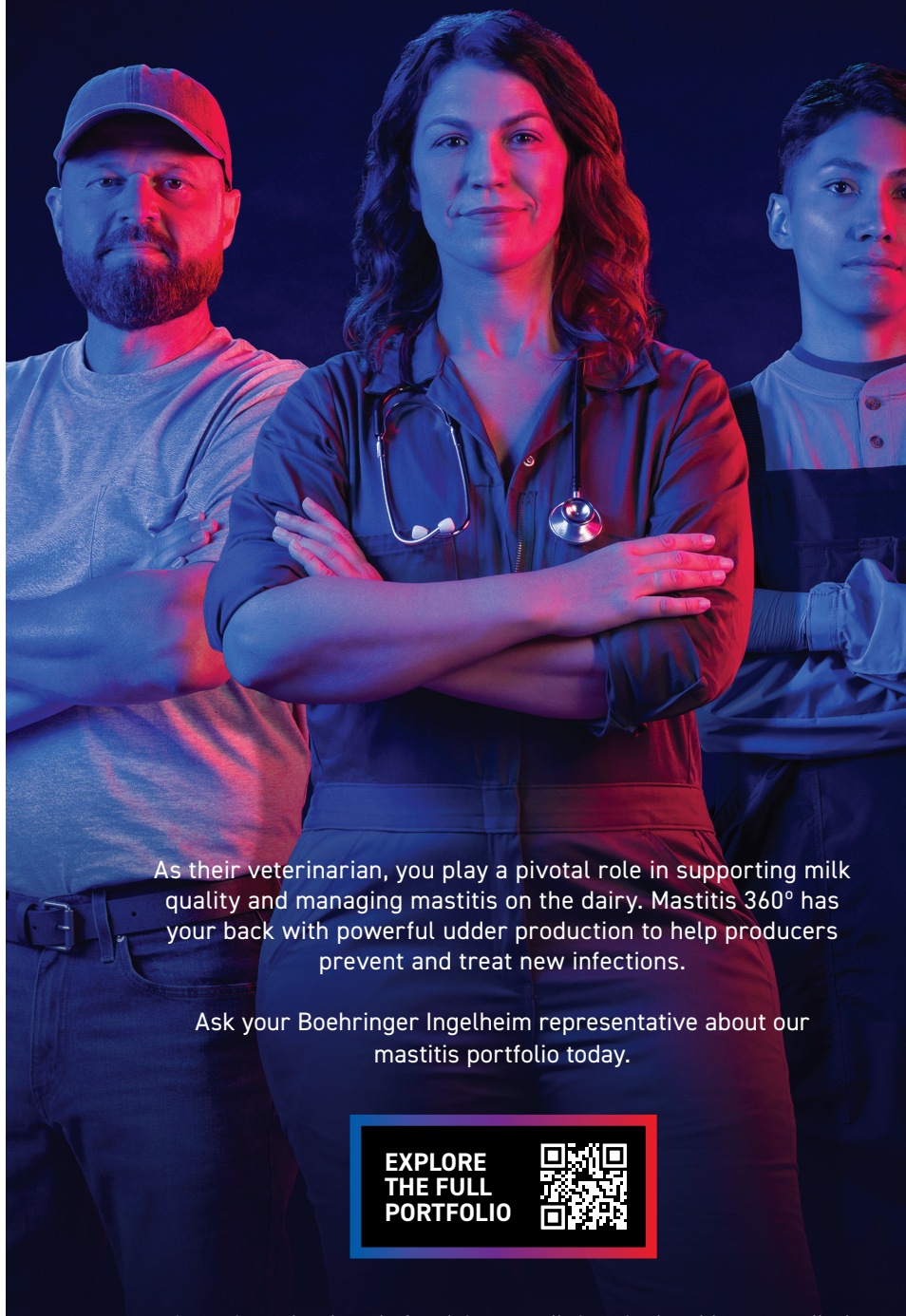
¹ Hess JL, Neuder LM, Sears PM. Rethinking clinical mastitis therapy, in *Proceedings. 36th Annu Conf AABP* 2003;169-170.

² Vasquez AK, Nydam DV, Capel MB, et al. Clinical outcome comparison of immediate blanket treatment versus a delayed pathogen-based treatment protocol for clinical mastitis in a New York dairy herd. *J Dairy Sci* 2017;100(4):2992-3003.

³ Schukken YH, Zurakowski MJ, Rauch BJ, et al. Non-inferiority trial comparing a first-generation cephalosporin with a third-generation cephalosporin in the treatment of non-severe clinical mastitis in dairy cows. *J Dairy Sci* 2013;96(10):6763-6774.

MASTITIS
360°

**BE READY TO STEP
UP IN THE FIGHT
AGAINST MASTITIS**



As their veterinarian, you play a pivotal role in supporting milk quality and managing mastitis on the dairy. Mastitis 360° has your back with powerful udder production to help producers prevent and treat new infections.

Ask your Boehringer Ingelheim representative about our mastitis portfolio today.

**EXPLORE
THE FULL
PORTFOLIO**



ToDAY[®]

cephapirin sodium

FOR INTRAMAMMARY INFUSION

Caution: Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

DESCRIPTION:

ToDAY (cephapirin sodium) is a cephalosporin which possesses a wide range of antimicrobial activity against gram-positive and gram-negative organisms. It is derived biosynthetically from 7-aminocephalosporanic acid.

Each 10 mL disposable syringe contains 200 mg of cephalapirin activity in a stable peanut oil gel. This product was manufactured by a non-sterilizing process.

Store at or below 25°C (77°F). Do not freeze. Avoid excessive heat.

ACTION

Cephapirin is bactericidal to susceptible organisms; it is known to be highly active against *Streptococcus agalactiae* and *Staphylococcus aureus* including strains resistant to penicillin.

To determine the susceptibility of bacteria to cephalapirin in the laboratory, the class disc, Cephalothin Susceptibility Test Discs, 30 mcg, should be used.

INDICATIONS

FOR LACTATING COWS ONLY / For the Treatment of Bovine Mastitis

ToDAY (cephapirin sodium) for Intramammary Infusion should be used at the first signs of inflammation or at the first indication of any alteration in the milk. Treatment is indicated immediately upon determining, by C.M.T. or other tests, that the leukocyte count is elevated, or that a susceptible pathogen has been cultured from the milk.

ToDAY for Intramammary Infusion has been shown to be efficacious in the treatment of mastitis in lactating cows caused by susceptible strains of *Streptococcus agalactiae* and *Staphylococcus aureus* including strains resistant to penicillin.

DOSAGE AND DIRECTIONS FOR USE

Infuse the entire contents of one syringe (10 mL) into each infected quarter immediately after the quarter has been completely milked out. Repeat once only in 12 hours. If definite improvement is not noted within 48 hours after treatment, the causal organism should be further investigated. Consult your veterinarian.

Milk out udder completely. Wash the udder and teats thoroughly with warm water containing a suitable dairy antiseptic and dry, preferably using individual paper towels. Carefully scrub the teat end and orifice with 70% alcohol, using a separate swab for each teat. **Allow to dry.**

ToDAY (cephapirin sodium) is packaged with the Opti-Sert[®] Protective Cap.

For partial insertion: Twist off upper portion of the Opti-Sert Protective Cap to expose 3-4 mm of the syringe tip.

For full insertion: Remove protective cap to expose the full length of the syringe tip.

Insert syringe tip into the teat canal and expel the entire contents of one syringe into each infected quarter. Withdraw the syringe and gently massage the quarter to distribute the suspension into the milk cistern. Do not milk out for 12 hours.

Do not infuse contents of the mastitis syringe into the teat canal if the Opti-Sert Protective Cap is broken or damaged.

Reinfection - The use of antibiotics, however effective, for the treatment of mastitis will not significantly reduce the incidence of this disease in the herd unless their use is fortified by good herd management, and sanitary and mechanical safety measures are practiced to prevent reinfection.

PRECAUTIONS

ToDAY should be administered with caution to subjects which have demonstrated some form of allergy, particularly to penicillin. Such reactions are rare; however, should they occur, consult your veterinarian.

RESIDUE WARNINGS

1. Milk that has been taken from animals during treatment and for 96 hours after the last treatment must not be used for food.
2. Treated animals must not be slaughtered for food until 4 days after the last treatment.
3. Administration of more than the prescribed dose may lead to residue of antibiotic in milk longer than 96 hours.

HOW SUPPLIED

ToDAY (cephapirin sodium) for Intramammary Infusion. Cephalapirin sodium equivalent to 200 mg of cephalapirin activity per syringe.

Each pail contains 144 x 10 mL syringes and 144 convenient single use alcohol pads. NDC 0010-4754-02.

ToDAY is also supplied in cartons containing 12 x 10 mL syringes with 12 convenient single use alcohol pads. NDC 0010-4754-01.

Not for Human Use.

Origin China

Marketed by:

Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc. Duluth, GA 30096

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