**Duration**

Teat lacerations are categorized as acute or chronic (more than 12 hours old). Surgical

intervention on the teat is best performed during the first 12 hours following the injury. Later,

swelling of the teat can be too severe to permit adequate reconstruction of the tissue. These

injuries benefit from medical therapy (hydrotherapy and a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug

(NSAID) before attempting primary closure of the defect (delayed first intention healing).

However, with complex lacerations (inverted “Y” or “U”), it is recommended to try primary

closure even if the laceration is older than 12 hours. The repair may partially dehisce but the

portion that heals will facilitate the surgical revision performed later in the healing process.

Source: <http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.michvma.org/resource/resmgr/mvc_proceedings_2014/nichols_04.pdf>