

Bovine Teat and Udder Surgery

Teat Laceration Classification

- Teat lacerations are categorized as
 - Acute
 - Chronic (more than 12 hours old).
 - Surgical intervention on the teat is best performed during the first 12 hours following the injury.
- Teat lacerations are classified as simple or complex (inverted “Y” or “U”),
- Longitudinal or transverse, and proximal or distal.
- The orientation of the blood supply of the teat is longitudinal.
- A transverse laceration results in more damage to the blood supply resulting in more edema, avascular necrosis and dehiscence post-operatively compared with a longitudinal laceration.
- The more circumference is involved, the worse is the prognosis.
- Distal injuries involving the streak canal are also regarded as having a poor prognosis.
- Proximal and transverse lacerations are difficult to repair. At this location, the mucosa is difficult, the suture and the teat swell more post-operatively.

- Teat lacerations are classified as being partial thickness (skin to submucosa)
- Full thickness (skin to mucosa with milk leaking out of the incision).
- recommended to
- apply cold hydrotherapy on the injured teat while waiting for the veterinarian.
- The hydrotherapy helps decrease the inflammation and helps clean the teat for surgery.