

Supernumerary teat removal	
Purpose	Removal of the extra teats because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - interfere with free milking process - unsightly, especially for show animals
Anatomy	What is a supernumerary teat? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basically, an extra teat attached to the mammary gland of the animal, so instead of the standard 4, there will be 5 teats - Can be independent or fused to main teat <p style="text-align: right;">-Image 1.0</p>
Equipment and Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Haemostats - Scalpel and scalpel blade - Needle and syringe - Analgesia of choice - Anti-myiasis and antibacterial spray - Needle holder - Forceps - Suture material (non-absorbable)
Restraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - animals should be placed in lateral recumbency, to allow for access to the teat - the legs can be tied to avoid the animal from kicking or moving much - an assistant will also need to physically restrain the animal - chemical restraints can be used in unruly animals
Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ideally, this procedure should be done in young animals - Analgesic should be administered pre operatively <p>Method 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two elliptical incisions are made at the junctions of teat and udder to separate the teat - The skin wound closed with interrupted suture using non-absorbable suture material - The site should then be sprayed with an anti-myiasis and anti-bacterial spray

	<p>Method 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Place a haemostat at the base of the supernumerary teat - Using a sharp-sharp scissors, cut the teat to completely sever it from the mammary gland - Suture close with a non-absorbable suture - Spray the site with an anti-myiasis and anti-bacterial spray
Post operative Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Animal should be placed in a separate pen - The site should be kept clean - Antibiotics can be administered if the attending clinician thinks it best as a preventative
Considerations and Complications	<p>Studies have shown that it has no significant effect on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Milk yield, - Lactation length, - Age at calving, - Conception rate - Service period <p>Some studies have stated that supernumerary teats can also be functional teats</p>
Welfare concerns	<p>This procedure is considered a bit outdated and unnecessary now, there are many discussions on if this is an ethical procedure.</p>

Image 1.0, Supernumerary teat



VETM 4001
Large animal surgery
Supernumerary teat removal

Image 2, Different types of supernumerary teats

