

ANTIMICROBIAL SUSCEPTIBILITY AND CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF *STREPTOCOCCUS AGALACTIAE* ISOLATED FROM DAIRY COWS IN LITHUANIA

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Summary. The aim of performed study was to determine antimicrobial susceptibility and clinical significance of *Streptococcus agalactiae* isolated from dairy cows in Lithuania. In 1998-2007 from 58,909 cows microbial strains belonging to streptococci, enterococci and staphylococci isolated from sub-clinical and clinical cases of bovine mastitis were analysed for their susceptibility to several antimicrobial agents. The susceptibility patterns were studied by agar disk diffusion methods (ADDM). In our study 18.0% cases of mastitis (94.3 % of sub-clinical and 5.7 % of clinical cases) were caused by *S. agalactiae*. Comparing different age groups of cows revealed that the highest number of cows (84%) susceptible to *S. agalactiae* infection were young and middle-aged (2-7 years). Analysis of data showed, that *S. agalactiae* infection cases significantly increased during May – July and October – November. *S. agalactiae* had resistance patterns to different antimicrobials, however the highest percent of resistance was demonstrated to tetracyclines and aminoglycosides. There was no clear regularity on *S. agalactiae* susceptibility to different classes of antibiotics. It is important to test every strain according to susceptibility as variation to all classes of antibiotics is common.

Key words: cow mastitis, *S. agalactiae*, SCC, antimicrobials susceptibility.