Questions and Answers about Autogenous Pinkeye Bacterins

Q. What samples should be submitted to determine the cause of a pinkeye episode?
A. Eyes swabs from early to mid stages of clinical pinkeye should be collected from several animals. Eyes should be swabbed prior to antibiotic administration. Samples can be collected and submitted from one or more herds.

Q. How should the samples be handled and transported?
A. Culture swabs need to stay moist. The use of a transport media or self-contained Culturette swabs is recommended. Packages should be shipped so the samples stay cool during transit.

Q. Where should samples be sent?
A. Samples can be sent directly to MVP Laboratories, 4807 G Street, Omaha, NE 68117. Forms for submission can be obtained at: http://www.mvplabs.com/diagnostics--forms.html. Isolates can also be transferred to MVP Laboratories from a state diagnostic laboratory.

Q. What will MVP do with the swabs?
A. MVP’s diagnostic laboratory will culture and identify the pathogens. Common isolates from pinkeye cases would include: Moraxella bovis, Moraxella bovoculi, Mycoplasma bovis or bovoculi.

Q. How are isolates picked for inclusion in the bacterin?
A. Isolates are evaluated for virulence-associated proteins including pilin and cytolysin (hemolysin). A dendrogram showing the percent similarity is then created based on the soluble protein profiles of each isolate. In consultation with the submitting veterinarian, MVP personnel will help choose the best isolates to include in a bacterin.

Q. What goes into making the bacterin?
A. Each isolate in the bacterin is grown under optimum conditions to maximize yield and antigen expression. After growth is completed, the bacterial culture is inactivated and then tested to ensure inactivation, sterility and safety. The product is then blended with MVP’s oil-in-water adjuvant, EMULSIGEN®. The bacterin is bottled and labeled with the clinic’s name and vaccine use recommendations.

Q. How long can an isolate be used in an autogenous bacterin?
A. Isolates can be used for bacterin production 15 months after the date when first isolated or for 12 months following the date the first serial of vaccine was manufactured, whichever is the earlier date. Near the end of the 12 months, the veterinarian may request an extension, which allows use to 24 months from the original isolation date. MVP provides assistance with this request.

Q. How long can the veterinarian expect before the bacterin is shipped?
A. The initial serial of bacterin can be expected within 3 to 4 weeks after isolations are complete. Subsequent serials take approximately 5 to 6 weeks from when the order is placed to being ready to ship due to additional requirements by USDA.

Q. How are the vaccines kept up to date?
A. Eye swabs from new cases can be submitted for isolation and soluble protein analysis. An isolate that differs from the current bacterin can be added. The new isolate can remain in the bacterin for 12 months plus it can be used in a new bacterin for an additional 12 months, if formally requested.

Q. Can autogenous bacterins be used in other herds in a practice area?
A. Yes. MVP will help file the necessary paperwork so that a pinkeye bacterin can be used in non-adjacent herds. The submitting veterinarian simply provides MVP with epidemiologic justification for non-adjacent use and the names of potential clients who may be using the bacterin.