



LUMPY SKIN DISEASE

Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) is a disease affecting cattle which causes fever, depression, skin nodules and oedema, enlarged lymph nodes, also nodules on the mucous membranes, nasal and ocular discharges, milk drop, swellings in the leg and lameness. The clinical signs are more severely expressed in milking cows during the peak of the lactation and in young calves.

The disease is present in Africa and the Middle East, in the recent years outbreaks were registered in Turkey. In 2015 outbreaks were reported in Greece and in 2016 the disease reoccurred in Greece and made an incursion into Bulgaria and FYR of Macedonia. The disease has considerable economic impact due to production losses (e.g. milk drop, reduced quality of skins), movement and trade restrictions imposed on the affected areas.

Transmission: The virus is mainly mechanically transmitted by insect vectors (mosquitoes, flies, ticks, etc.) or by contaminated needles. Some of these could potentially be brought from an infected area on the wind or within vehicles. The particular vectors that will vary between countries and have been little studied. Once arrived in a new area spread is likely to be fastest during periods when flies are a nuisance, e.g. summer and autumn months when there are moist, warm conditions. The disease can be also be spread through contaminated feed, water, and equipment. The virus is not transmissible to humans.

Clinical signs and diagnosis: Skin nodules with 5-50 mm size (with round shape, raising above the skin) usually appear 2 days after the start of fever, on the skin of the head, neck, udder, genitalia, perineum, limbs. The nodules can cover the entire body or only few can appear. The nodules can disappear or ulcerate leaving scars. The clinical diagnosis is confirmed by laboratory testing of blood samples and tissue samples from the skin lesions.

Treatment: There is no treatment for Lumpy Skin Disease.



Inform a veterinarian or the Veterinary Services

Prevention: It is difficult to stop cattle being attacked by infected vectors (flies, etc.) once infection is within an area. Risk behaviours increase the probability of infection being carried between locations. Preventive measures can improve the level of protection of your herd from Lumpy Skin Disease and other infectious diseases:

Implement biosecurity measures:

- As livestock and vehicles can carry live vectors (flies, mosquitoes, etc.) between areas, avoid entry or opening of such vehicles within or close to livestock holdings, unless disinfested with approved products.
- Protect animals from insects (e.g. treatment with approved repellents, move animals to locations within the holding where fewer biting flies).
- Change needles when treating animals.

General measures to reduce the risk of LSD and other diseases:

- Disinfectant footbath at the entrance of the stable.
- Disposable boot covers and suit for the visitors.
- Disinfection and disinfestation of vehicles prior to and after movements.

Avoid:

- Contacts between animals of different herds (e.g. on pasture).
- Grazing areas where nuisance flies are very abundant.
- Sharing animals, tools, vehicles, personnel with other farms.

Awareness: Your herd may be at risk. It is very important to check regularly all the animals. Any suspicion of Lumpy Skin Disease must be notified immediately to a veterinarian and the Veterinary services. Notification is essential to limit further spread of the disease.

Sources of information:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/scientific_output/files/main_documents/3986.pdf

http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahm/2.04.14_LSD.pdf

Pictures: EuFMD, Bulgarian Food Safety Agency.