**STAPH. AUREUS MASTITIS**  
*(Staphylococcus aureus) (HS)*

A *contagious* bacterial infection of the udder

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHERE DO THEY LIVE?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infected quarters</td>
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<td>Teat and hand skin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less common but found on other human and animal body sites</td>
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<th>HOW IS INFECTION SPREAD?</th>
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<td>During milking via hands, milker units and common washcloths</td>
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**DISEASE:**
Subclinical, but some cows can have repeated clinical flare-ups

**DETECTION:**
- Culture of milk samples (2 - 3 repeat samples may be necessary)
- California mastitis test (CMT)
- Somatic cell counts (SCC) on individual cows

**EFFECT:**
Reduced production, permanent quarter damage and abscessing

**TREATMENT:**
Resistant to many antibiotics

**ESTIMATED CURE RATES:**
- Antibiotic treatment during lactation - 20 - 50%
- Antibiotic treatment at dry-off time - 30 - 70%

**Note:** Cure rates of less than 10% can be expected for long-standing infections

**MAIN PREVENTIVE MEASURES:**
- Use separate paper towels (or equivalent) for udder preparation
- Use correct post-milking teat dipping procedures
- Milk infected cows last or with a separate unit
- Dry treat all cows
- Purchase uninfected cows
- Wear sanitary gloves