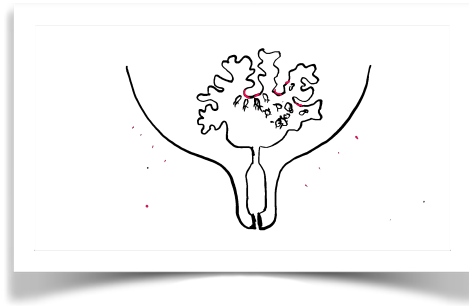


Mastitis -Introduction -Definition

Mastitis is inflammation of the parenchyma of the mammary gland regardless of the cause. Mastitis is therefore characterised by a range of physical and chemical changes in the milk and pathologic changes in the glandular tissue.

Changes in the milk are discolouration, the presence of clots, and the presence of large numbers of leukocytes. Changes in mammary gland may be swelling, heat, pain, and oedema



But as large proportion of mastitic glands are not detectable easily (sub clinical Mastitis).So the diagnosis of mastitis depends largely on indirect tests, which depend, on the somatic cell count or electrolyte (sodium or chloride) concentration of milk. So mastitis may be define as a disease characterised by the presence of a significantly increased somatic cell concentration in milk from affected glands. The increased somatic cell count is, in almost all cases, caused by an increased neutrophil concentration, which represents a reaction of glandular tissue to injury and is preceded by changes in the milk that are the direct result of damage to glandular tissue. But, the exact clinical and laboratory changes that occur in the udder as a result of infection can also be caused by other factors in the absence of infection. Until it becomes common usage to define mastitis in terms of the sodium or chloride concentration of the milk (as measured by electrical conductivity) or increased permeability of the blood-milk barrier (as measured by albumin concentration),

Symptoms of mastitis depends on the identification of the causative agent whether it be infectious or physical.

