



Coccivac®-B Oocyst Shedding Following Application via Spray Cabinet vs. Coccidiostat

Broilers infected with *Eimeria* spp. will shed non-sporulated oocysts as a part of their normal life cycle. While severe infections may cause mortality before oocysts are shed, the total number of oocysts shed at a given time usually correlates to the severity of infection.

Routine monitoring of poultry fed ionophore anticoccidials shows that normal, healthy flocks will have peak oocyst levels at 4 weeks of age (Balloy, 1998; Clark, 1994; Clark, 1999).

Key Points

- **Peak oocyst shed occurred earlier, at 14 to 21 days of age, in broilers vaccinated via the Spraycox® spray cabinet. The oocyst shed in these broilers declined substantially by 28 days of age.**
- **Uniform vaccine application via spray cabinet induced earlier oocyst shedding followed by the rapid development of immunity.**
- **Recovery and compensatory gain began one week earlier in spray cabinet vaccinates compared to flocks fed ionophore anticoccidials.**

A study of broilers vaccinated with Coccivac-B vaccine at one day of age was conducted to determine the oocyst shed rate and schedule under commercial conditions.

Field Trial

One-day-old broilers were vaccinated with Coccivac-B vaccine using the Spraycox spray cabinet (21 mL per 100 chicks).

The flocks were placed in commercial broiler houses on clean litter. Fecal samples were collected at weekly intervals through processing age. Oocyst counts were expressed as total number of oocysts per gram of feces. Results are summarized in table 1 on the next page.

Table 1
Coccivac-B: Day of Age Application
Oocysts per Gram of Feces
Field Trial Data

	14 Days	21 Days	28 Days	40 days
Flock A	6,900	17,400	1,800	800
Flock B	18,700	6,600	800	1,900

Note: Oocyst excretion alone is not an indicator of poultry performance. Early challenge and excretion allow ample time for compensatory gain resulting in excellent weight gain and feed conversion. (Clark, 1999).

References

Balloy, C. 1998. Practical approach to turkey coccidiosis. 21st Technical Turkey Conference Proceedings.

Clark, S. 1994. Coccidia monitoring in commercial turkeys. Proceedings of the 1994 Pfizer Pacesetter Conference, pp 1-6.

Clark, S. 1999. Oocyst excretion is not an indicator of poultry performance. Roche technical bulletin.

[Innovative Solutions in Poultry Health]



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