

Immunity to infections in the lower genital tract of bulls.

[Cobo ER](#)¹, [Corbell LB](#), [BonDurant RH](#).

⊕ Author information

Abstract

The mucosa of the bovine prepuce has unique immunological characteristics critical to defense against sexually transmitted diseases. *Trichomonas foetus* and *Campylobacter fetus* subspecies *venerealis* persistently colonize the lower genital tract of bulls but usually do not cause either major clinical signs or inflammation. These microbes may be sexually transmitted to female cattle to cause reproductive failure. Although the male genital immune responses to *T. foetus* and *C. fetus* subspecies *venerealis* are inefficient in clearing infection, systemic immunization with *T. foetus* and *C. fetus* subspecies *venerealis* antigens does prevent or eliminate these infections with induction of IgG antibodies in genital secretions and serum.

Copyright © 2011 Elsevier Ireland Ltd. All rights reserved.