



Audio Summaries: Can vaccinating sheep reduce the occurrence of caseous lymphadenitis?

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Caseous lymphadenitis (CLA) is an important clinical disease found mainly in sheep which can have a high economic impact on sheep production. Knowing this, a sheep breeder asks the veterinarian during a regular visit to his farm how he could avoid this disease in his flock. He knows there are vaccines on the market, but wonders if they are really effective.

In all the studies the animals were randomly allocated to experimental treatment groups, which provides a higher degree of confidence in the study (although most studies did not detail how this randomisation was done). From a total of 238 studies found, 218 were excluded. Of these, 169 were not related to the PICO question, 30 were not primary studies, three were excluded due to being written in a foreign language, 12 were related to other species and four were not available. Of the 20 studies selected, 10 had to be excluded because they were duplicates. In all the studies used it was found that animals vaccinated against CLA are less likely to acquire the disease when compared to unvaccinated animals. The vaccination for CLA is an effective measure for prophylaxis of the disease, since vaccinated animals were significantly less affected by the disease when compared to unvaccinated animals.

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