

# Bovine cysticercosis (*Taenia saginata*) and diagnostic status in Poland

Mirosław Różycki<sup>1</sup>, Maciej Kochanowski<sup>1</sup>, Aneta Bełcik<sup>1</sup>,  
Ewelina Antolak<sup>1</sup>, Tomasz Cencek<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Department of Parasitology and Parasitic Diseases, National Veterinary Research Institute, 57 Partyzantów Avenue, 24-100 Puławy, Poland

**1.** EU official examinations data indicate an **increase in the presence of cysticercosis in cattle population**. The „minor” importance of cysticercosis is the sum of the weakness of the control (low sensitivity), easy inactivation in meat and the low risk for human.

**2.** In Poland traditionally the *T. saginata* cysts in cattle are found at the time of **visual inspection, palpation or incisions of masseters and heart**.

**3.** According to **EU Regulation 627/2019** the competent authorities may decide that incision of the masseters at post-mortem inspection is not compulsory if: a specific serological test is used, the animals have been raised on a holding of provenance officially certified to be free of cysticercosis, or the prevalence of the source population or in a well-defined subpopulation is below one in a million.

**4.** According to **Regulation (EU) 2017/625**, the methods of sampling and diagnostics during official controls comply with EU regulations specifying these methods or with the effectiveness criteria for such methods.

**5.** No serological tests for cattle testing for cysticercosis have been explicitly mentioned in EU legislation. Other tests may be used if are internationally recognized, e.g. by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) or recommended by European Union Reference Laboratories (EURL) and validated according to internationally recognized scientific protocols. According to the information obtained from the EURL on July 16, 2020, **no test has been developed or validated by EURL to test cattle for cysticercosis**.

**6.** Based od data reported by Veterinary Inspection we tried to **estimate the incidence of cysticercosis in cattle in Poland**. The results of this estimation are shown in Table.

Bovine cysticercosis	
Year	Cases per 1 million head
2016	439
2017	285
2018	286
2019	271

**7.** To adopt modern solutions in supervision, it would be **necessary to take steps to validate the serological test for cysticercosis in bovine animals by EURL and to take action at the farm level in Poland**.