EVALUATION OF CETYLPYRIDINIUM CHLORIDE (CPC) AS A DECONTAMINANT AND TRANSPORT MEDIUM FOR *MYCOBACTERIUM BOVIS* INFECTED CATTLE TISSUES

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Tuberculosis in cattle caused by *Mycobacterium bovis* is becoming an increasing economic concern to the veterinary and farming community because of the spread of the disease. The current method of decontaminating bovine tissues submitted for culture, is with oxalic acid which is laborious and expensive. A trial was carried out on 94 lesioned bovine lymph nodes to validate the use of 0.075% and 1% CPC for the transport and decontamination of animal tissues for the culture of *Mycobacterium bovis*. Samples were despatched in duplicate from the Animal Health Office at Gloucester to VLA, Weybridge. One sample from each pair was sent in CPC and the other sent untreated and then treated with 5% oxalic acid at Weybridge. When sown onto a standard set of diagnostic media slopes, CPC was shown to be toxic to *M. bovis* at concentrations below 0.32%, its Critical Micelle Concentration (CMC). At 1% concentration 8 out of the 19 CPC treated lymph nodes were positive for *M. bovis* when cultured onto slopes, compared to 15 which were positive following treatment with 5% oxalic acid. Its effect on isolation and incubation time should be carefully considered if CPC is used for the decontamination and transport of animal tissues, where there is liable to be excess liquid in the culture medium.