The influence of pulling force in the liner and teat penetration into the liner on basic vacuum parameters of a milking unit

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The influence of high liquid flow rate Qm=0-8kg/min, teat penetration and pulling force in the liner on vacuum milking parameters for Harmony milking unit was analysed and the empirical formulae were adopted. As has been observed, such milking parameters as average vacuum during the milking phase (pss), average vacuum decrease during a complete pulsation cycle (dp) and the pressure difference between the end of teat and the claw (dp1max1) change its value significantly with the increasing Qm. The best value of vacuum fluctuations parameters and dp1max1 were observed for pulling force in the liner being in the range of 40-70N. This range of pulling force is also suitable for dp1max1, which oscillates between –0.1 and –0.2 kPa.

Key words: Milking units, liner, measurements, vacuum parameters.

Stable vacuum in the teat cup chamber and elimination of the back flow has the very important requirements influencing the course and conditions of milking of cows with high milk productivity (Szlachta, 1997; Haman & Dück, 1984; Hamann, 1989).

The analysis of vacuum level and teat end pressure during milking shows differences in the milk flow rate (O’Shea J. et al., 1976; Nordegren, 1980; Williams and Mein, 1980; Mayntz, Laidig & De Toro, 1990; Szlachta & Wiercioch, 1994; Szlachta et al., 2000). It should be noticed that stabilisation of vacuum under the teat end demands attention from researchers, especially when it comes to cows with high milk productivity (Szlachta & Wiercioch, 1997). The above-mentioned basic aspects of work of a milking unit allow us to notice that vacuum is a factor of a great importance. The conditions of milking also depend on the construction of a milking unit, especially the milk claw volume, liner characteristics and massage pressure.
Pulling force and teat penetration

and stimulation. Taking into account what has been said heretofore, it should be noticed that milking units often work improperly, especially when the cows milked, exhibit high milk productivity, i.e. when the intensity of liquid flow > 4-8 kg/min. The aim of the study was to evaluate the influence of pulling force in the teat liner and teat penetration on the change of basic parameters in milking units used for milking of cows with high milk productivity. The basic criteria of assessment were level of pulling

\[ \text{pks} = f(v_c, dV_k) \]

\[ v_c = f(TPD, St1) \]

\[ \text{Change of volume under teat } dV_k \]

\[ \text{Back flow} \]

\[ \text{Milk plug} \]

\[ \text{Milk flow to the claw} \]

**Figure 1. Methods and test procedure: a-problem illustration, b-scheme of test installation.**
forces in the liner and vacuum stability at the teat end during laboratory empirical test. Very interesting was the influence of liquid flow rate (Qm) on the average vacuum during milking phase (pss), average vacuum decrease during a complete pulsation cycle (dp) and pressure difference between the end of teat and claw (dp1max1, Figure 1), as factors causing back flow (Szlachta et. al, 2000).

The research was carried out using test installation of the Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural University of Wroclaw (Figure 1). The Harmony milking unit with claw TF450 was examined. The liner Harmony was pulled in teat cup chamber with the force of 30-80N. The vacuum parameters were measured for liquid flow rate Qm=0-8kg/min and for teat penetration 50, 62, 75, 100 mm. The basic technical data of milking units are shown in the table 1. The work of the milking unit was recorded by a system of computer registration and analysed for chosen milking parameters (Wiercioch & Szlachta, 1994).

### Table 1. Basic technical data of the milking units tested.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milk chamber capacity of claw, cm³</th>
<th>Pulsator type</th>
<th>Diameter of short milk tube, mm</th>
<th>Diameter of long milk tube, mm</th>
<th>The volume under the teat by the teat penetration into liner:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>450</td>
<td>EP-100</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0 mm 50 mm 62 mm 75 mm 100 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>76 cm³</td>
<td>58.7 cm³</td>
<td>54.5 cm³ 44.8 cm³ 30.8 cm³</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The influence of liquid flow rate Qm on changes in average vacuum during the milking phase pss was very similar for all examined teat penetration and pulling forces. With changing Qm from 0 to 8 kg/min, the drop of the average vacuum during the milking phase pss is less impetuous (Figure 2).

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This parameter decreases for all teat penetrations in the liner. In the case of pulling force in the range of 30-40N and little teat penetration (50-62mm) a high drop of average vacuum during the milking phase (pss) was observed. This situation is a result of big changes of the volume under the teat (dVk, fig.1a). To eliminate the back flow, the difference pressure between the end of teat and claw (dp1max1) should have a negative value or oscillate around zero. For Qm=8kg/min (Figure 3) negative values of
Pulling force and teat penetration

Figure 2. Influence of liquid rate on the average vacuum level during the milking phase, pss.

\[ \text{pss (100 mm)} = -0.0073 \cdot q_m^2 - 0.5299 \cdot q_m + 50.893 \]
\[ R^2 = 0.9914 \]

Figure 3. Influence of pulling force in the liner and teat penetration on the pressure difference between the end of teat and claw (dp1max1) and average vacuum decrease during a complete pulsation cycle (dp) for liquid Qm=8 kg/min.

\[ \text{dp1max1 (50 mm)} = 0.0004 \cdot q_m^2 - 0.0383 \cdot q_m + 0.8059 \]
\[ R^2 = 0.5897 \]
\[ \text{dp1max1 (62 mm)} = 0.0004 \cdot q_m^2 - 0.0429 \cdot q_m + 0.976 \]
\[ R^2 = 0.4286 \]
\[ \text{dp1max1 (75 mm)} = 0.0003 \cdot q_m^2 - 0.0352 \cdot q_m + 0.7925 \]
\[ R^2 = 0.603 \]
\[ \text{dp1max1 (100 mm)} = 5 \cdot 10^{-5} \cdot q_m^2 - 0.0072 \cdot q_m + 0.1234 \]
\[ R^2 = 0.1644 \]

\[ \text{dp (50 mm)} = 0.00001 \cdot q_m^2 + 0.0342 \cdot q_m + 8.9495 \]
\[ R^2 = 0.5948 \]
\[ \text{dp (62 mm)} = 0.0001 \cdot q_m^2 - 0.5325 \cdot q_m + 32.535 \]
\[ R^2 = 0.9614 \]
\[ \text{dp (75 mm)} = -0.0007 \cdot q_m^2 + 0.1561 \cdot q_m + 3.1381 \]
\[ R^2 = 0.6275 \]
\[ \text{dp (100 mm)} = -0.001 \cdot q_m^2 + 0.1399 \cdot q_m + 1.9268 \]
\[ R^2 = 0.7054 \]
pressure difference between the end of teat and claw (dp1max1) were obtained with pulling force ranging from 40 to 70 N. The dp1ma1 had negative value for whole range of pulling force (30-80N).

The best value of parameter pss and dp1max1 was observed for pulling force in the liner ranging from 40 to 70N. This range of pulling force is also suitable for dp1max1, which oscillates between -0,1 and -0,2 kPa. The research showed that the Harmony liner causes back flow in small degree.

**Conclusion**

**References**

- Hamann J., 1989; Maschineller Milchentzug und mastitis. Stuttgart, 26-45