

An investigation into the method of application of tincture of iodine (spray or dip) in relation to neonatal health of lambs.

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1) Introduction

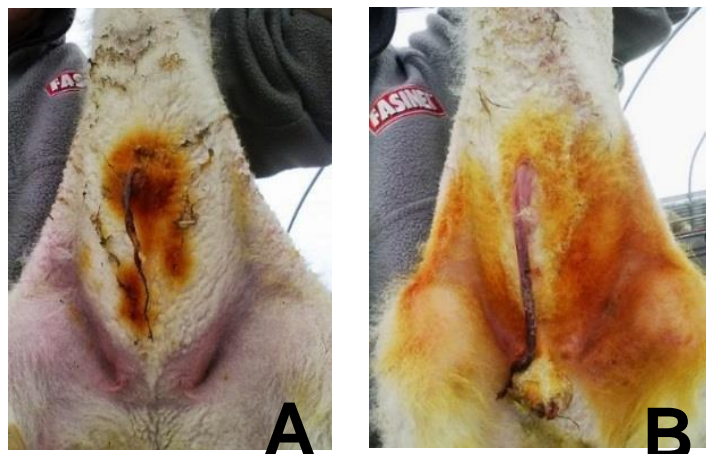
'Tincture of iodine' is a 10% mix of iodine and alcohol used to disinfect and dehydrate the wet navel of a newborn lamb. This solution has long been used by shepherds to manage the threat of disease gaining entry through the navel. The tincture can either be sprayed onto the navel, or the navel can be immersed in the solution, however there are no studies comparing the two methods for effectiveness.

2) Method of study

50 sets of twin lambs were tested with one lamb being dipped (group A) and one lamb being sprayed (group B). Six key performance indicators were measured to assess impact of application method:

- Drying time
- Drying length
- Lamb vigour
- Observation of omphalitis by way of abscesses
- Observation of joint ill
- Mortality in 48 hours

Fig 1. A visual comparison of twins



3) Results

Fig 2. Time difference to dry of dips over sprays

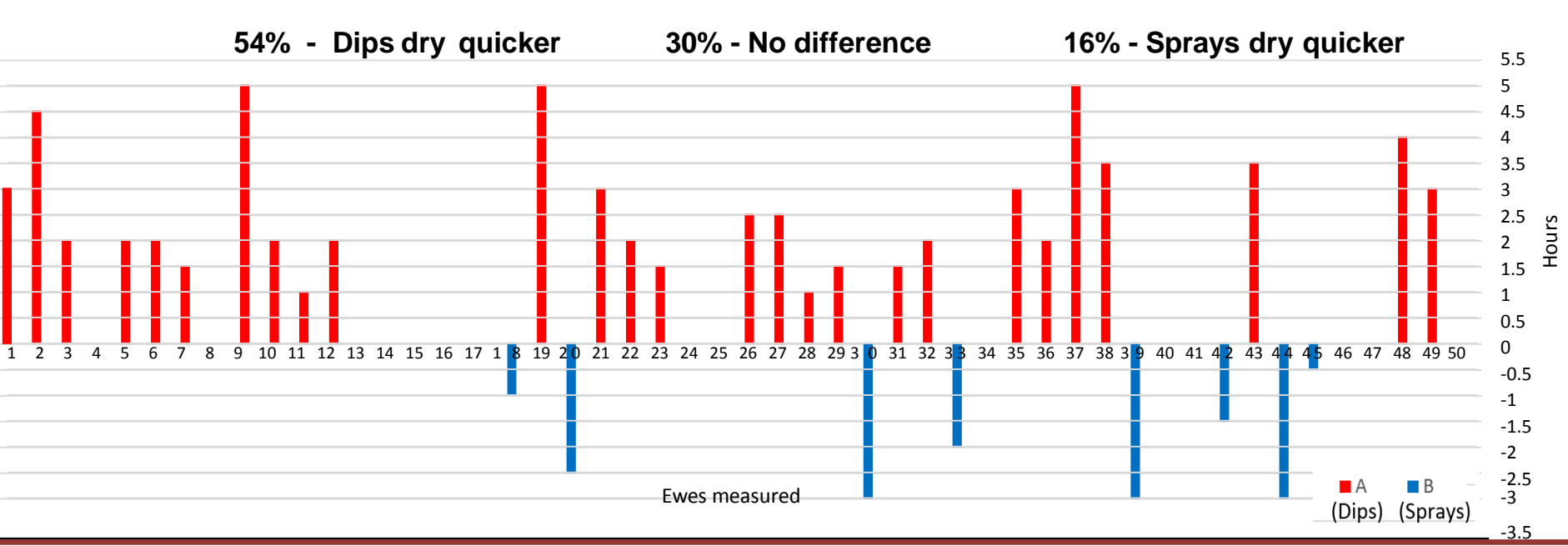
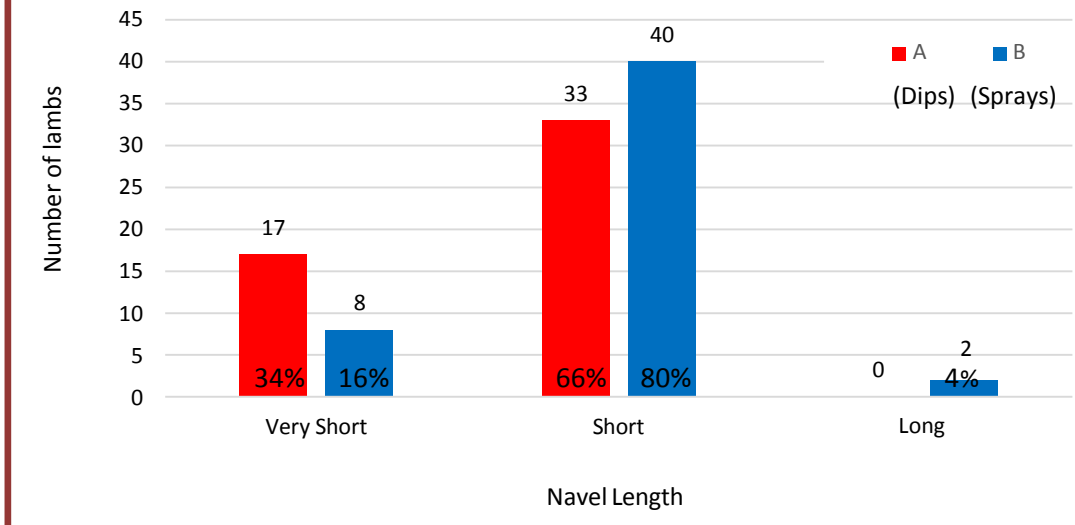


Fig 3. Dry Navel Length within all lambs



3) Results: Key Findings

1. Dips dry faster than sprays
2. Dips dry shorter than sprays
3. Dips are more manageable and efficient

4) Conclusions

No significant difference in health of lamb was identified yet it can be argued that due to improvements in proxy measurements relating to the navel, the relevant risk of susceptibility to pathogens may be reduced due to dipping. Based on the findings of this investigation is it recommended that shepherds use the dipping technique to best protect their lambs.