

Dairy UK Position Paper Anti-MAP Treatment for Crohn's Disease August 2018

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Background

Mycobacterium avium subspecies *paratuberculosis* (often abbreviated to MAP) is a bacterium which causes Johne's disease, a contagious and chronic infection that primarily affects the small intestine of cattle, sheep and goats. The main symptoms are diarrhoea and wasting. MAP has also been implicated in the development of Crohn's disease in humans – however, no causal relationship has been established between MAP and Crohn's to date.

Biopharmaceutical company RedHill Biopharma have announced top-line results from their ongoing study on the effects of RHB-104 (an antibiotic treatment with anti-mycobacterial properties) on Crohn's disease. The study is based on the hypothesis that Crohn's disease is caused by MAP infection in susceptible patients. The key finding is that Crohn's disease patients treated with RHB-104 achieved better results than patients treated with a placebo.

Dairy UK Position – for media

At present there is no research that has confirmed that MAP causes disease in humans, including Crohn's disease. In addition, the NHS advises that there is no conclusive evidence to suggest a particular diet can cause this disease. Scientific evidence certainly does not warrant a reduced consumption of milk, which is a rich package of nutrients and contributes to the intake of a wide range of vitamins and minerals in the UK population.