

A qualitative analysis of veterinary peer study groups

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Introduction

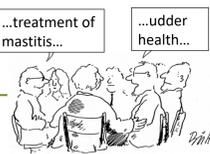
Within the dairy industry, most antimicrobials are used for dry-cow therapy or mastitis treatment. To reduce antimicrobial usage in udder health, peer study groups as a continuing veterinary medical education might be a promising approach (Tschopp et al., 2015). Therefore, the objective of this study was to analyse written records of veterinary peer study group (VPSG) meetings to identify factors associated with antimicrobial usage for mastitis treatment and to analyse the response of the veterinarians for this continuing veterinary medical education.



Materials and Methods

Veterinary peer study group (VPSG) meetings

21 participating Swiss cattle practitioners
 distributed into three VPSG
 7-8 VPSG meetings during 18 months of intervention



Attendees:

- Moderator (1)
- Expert (1)
- Peers (Vets) (6-8)

Agenda:

- Attitude towards topic
- Sharing of experiences
- Discussion with expert
- Feedback round



Qualitative analysis with MAXQDA® on:
 written records from VPSG meetings

Identifying factors associated with antimicrobial usage applying the framework method (Gale et al., 2013)

Focus group discussion (FGD) at end of study

Specific questions were asked to receive feedback from veterinarians on the VPSG.



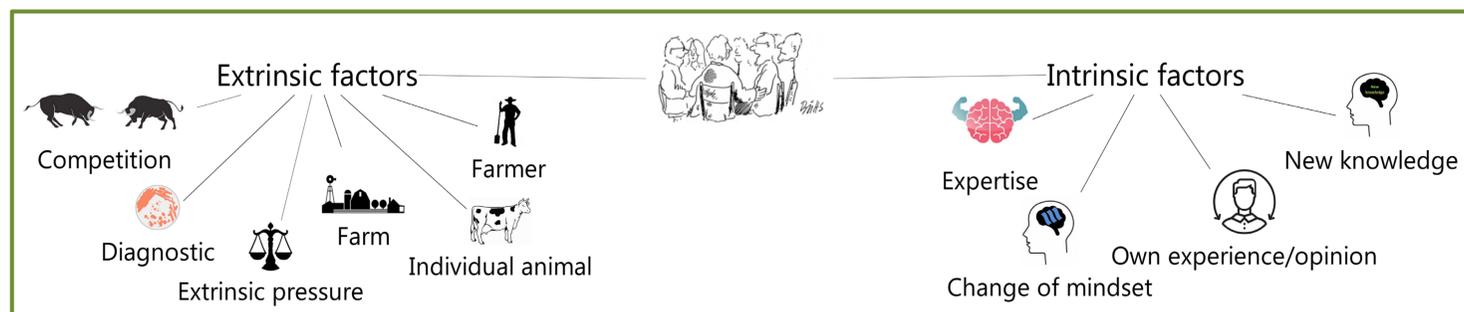
Knowledge mapping as method for evaluation and presentation of feedback on VPSG from FGD (Pelz et al., 2004)



Qualitative analysis with MAXQDA® on:
 mind maps of FGD

Analyzing feedback on VPSG

Results



Codings of Feedback from VPSG	To what extent has this VPSG....			
	... helped you with the topic of diagnostics?	...helped you with the topic of therapy?	... helped you regarding relationship with farmers?	...changed your AM prescription practices?
Backing/support/reinforcement			✓	
Monitoring of AMU in future		✓		
Continue with old behaviour		✓		✓
New information/knowledge	✓	✓		
Change of mindset/fresh momentum	✓	✓		✓
Comparison to peers	✓	✓	✓	

Discussion and Conclusion

We could identify intrinsic and extrinsic factors that were associated with veterinarians' antimicrobial usage. The Feedback given during the FGD showed that this type of continuing veterinary medical education is positively perceived by the veterinarians. The VPSG supported and informed the veterinarians in several ways. Therefore, VPSG might alter behavior, which might change prescription practices and this might change antimicrobial usage of veterinarians.

We would like to thank all participating veterinarians, the FSVO (Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office) for funding the project and the Swiss association of Ruminant Medicine.

References

- Tschopp et al., 2015, *Journal of Dairy Science*, 98(2), 840–60
 Gale et al., 2013, *BMC Medical Research Methodology*, 13:117
 Pelz et al., 2004, *Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung*, Volume 5, No. 2, Art. 35