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Additional Information

27 **Keywords:** antibiotics, natural inhibitors, goats' milk, microbial inhibitor tests, false positive
28 results.

29 **1. INTRODUCTION**

30 Currently, antibiotic residues in milk are still of great concern to different sectors such as
31 milk producers, the dairy industry, regulatory agencies and consumers. As milk production
32 by small ruminants increased in recent years, the use of antibiotics in dairy goats has become
33 a usual practice in veterinary medicine to treat mastitis and other diseases (Buswell, Knight,
34 & Barber, 1989; Silanikove, Leitner, Merin, & Prosser, 2010).

35 The problem is that many antibiotics used in dairy goats are specially registered for dairy
36 cattle and the withdrawal period cannot be extrapolated accurately, since the depletion data
37 were generated for a different animal species (Ferrini, Trenta, Mannoni, Rosati, & Coni,
38 2010; Karzis, Donkin, & Petzer, 2007). Therefore, antimicrobial residues could still be
39 present in goats' milk after respecting the withdrawal time set for cattle (Petzer et al., 2008).
40 Veterinary drug residues in milk might pose a risk to health, generating allergic or toxic
41 reactions (Alanis, 2005; Demoly & Romano, 2005; Sanders, Bousquet-Melou, Chauvin, &
42 Toutain, 2011) and technological implications in the manufacturing of dairy products
43 (Adetunji, 2011; Berruga, Beltrán, Novés, Molina, & Molina, 2011; Packham, Broome,
44 Limsowtin, & Roginski, 2001). The problem is even bigger for goats' milk since it is mainly
45 intended for the production of cheese or yogurt.

46 The European Union established Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for veterinary medicinal
47 products in Commission Regulation (EU) No 37/2010, as foreseen in Commission Regulation
48 (EU) No 470/2009. Inhibitory substances in milk are routinely screened at farms, dairies and
49 laboratories. Currently, several commercial methods to detect antibiotics are available (IDF,
50 2010). Microbial inhibitor tests are the most used, because they are quick, easy to use, and
51 relatively cheap and can detect a wide spectrum of compounds (Comunian, Paba, Dupre,

52 Daga, & Scintu, 2010), they are generally based on the inhibition of the growth of the
53 microorganism *Geobacillus stearothermophilus* var. *calidolactis*, and their results are
54 qualitatively interpreted by a colour change (yellow: negative and blue/purple: positive).
55 Evaluating the performance of screening tests, requirements are stipulated for the rate of false
56 compliant results. Following Commission Decision 2002/657/EC this rate should be < 5 %
57 (β -error) at the level of interest ($CC\beta$). In the same Commission Decision, as a general
58 requirement for specificity it is stated that a method should be able to distinguish between the
59 analyte (antibiotic residue) and the other substances under the experimental conditions.
60 Therefore, specificity is associated with the presence of false positive results and is of great
61 interest to evaluate the analytical capacity of a test. But the legislation is not fixing levels for
62 the rate of false positive results. A positive test result is considered to be false positive when
63 no antibiotics are present in the milk. To determine false positive results, a large number of
64 milk samples from animals not treated with veterinary medicinal products should be
65 analysed.

66 Microbial inhibitor tests are not specific for just antibiotic residues but may be affected by
67 any substance or compound capable of inhibiting the growth of the test organism. Several
68 factors could contribute to false positive results such as natural inhibitors (lactoferrin,
69 lysozyme) (Carlsson, Björck, & Persson, 1989), a high somatic cell count (Andrew, 2001),
70 an abnormal fat content (Reybroeck & Ooghe, 2012), detergents and disinfectants
71 (Salomskiene, Macioniene, Zvirdauskiene, & Jonkuviene, 2013; Zvirdauskiene &
72 Salomskiene, 2007), and preservatives (Molina, Segura, Luján, Althaus, & Peris Ribera,
73 2003). Inhibitor tests have been developed for the testing of cows' milk, but are also used for
74 the analysis of milk from other species, such as goats. Most of studies about non-compliant
75 results were performed with cows' or ewes' milk (Althaus et al., 2003; Andrew, Frobish,
76 Paape, & Maturin, 1997; Beltrán, Berruga, Molina, Althaus, & Molina, 2015; Kang, Jin, &

77 Kondo, 2005; Molina *et al.*, 2003). No to limited information for goats' milk is available
78 despite the fact that goats' milk, due to its more extreme composition, is likely to cause a
79 higher rate of false positive inhibitor test results compared to cows' milk. Some kit
80 manufacturers do not specify the animal species when talking about milk, in other kit inserts
81 the suitability to test goats' milk is specifically mentioned. In general very limited
82 information is given about the possibility to obtain false positive results due to natural
83 inhibitory substances or other interferences.

84 False positive results can have serious consequences, as producers and the dairy industry are
85 encountered with economic losses. Good milk will be discarded and a financial penalty will
86 be given as a legal consequence for a positive test result in regulatory testing of milk.
87 Validation of the tests for goats' milk is very important for the selection of the most
88 appropriate testing strategy for a correct interpretation of the test results and to ensure good
89 monitoring of antibiotics in dairy goats' milk.

90 Thus, the aim of the study was to compare the response of most microbial screening methods
91 developed for cows' milk, which are currently used for the monitoring for antimicrobial
92 residues in goats' milk. A second aim was to try to limit the rate of false positive results by
93 the application of a milk pre-treatment as heat treatment, fat removal, fat removal followed
94 by heat treatment.

95 **2. MATERIAL AND METHODS**

96 The experimental study was carried out in the Technology and Food Science unit (Melle,
97 Belgium) of the Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research (ILVO-T&V).

98 **2.1. Milk samples**

99 Two hundred individual milk samples of different goats of White Saanen breed were
100 collected from three Flemish goats' farms with different feed management (ecological: Johan
101 Van Waes, Lochristi-Zaffelare and 't Eikenhof, Lokeren; and conventional: 't Leenhof, Zele).

102 The sampling of milk of different individual goats was performed in the afternoon milking,
103 around 5 and 6 p.m on all farms. Each sample consisted of some 600 mL of individual goats'
104 milk and was kept refrigerated at ≤ 4 °C until transport to the laboratory the next morning. On
105 arrival, the samples were homogenized and divided in several aliquots (50 mL) to perform
106 the screening tests for antibiotics (first and second day), the remaining milk was frozen at -30
107 °C in different flasks and volumes for additional residue analysis.

108 **2.2. Microbial inhibitor tests**

109 Milk samples were tested 14-20 hours post-milking by means of nine different microbial
110 inhibitor tests: BR-AS Special, CMT-Copan Milk Test, Delvotest SP-NT and Delvotest T
111 from DSM Food Specialties (Delft, The Netherlands), Brilliant Black Reduction Test MRL
112 (BRT MRL) from Analytik in Milch Produktions- und Vertriebs-GmbH (Munich, Germany),
113 Charm Blue Yellow II and Charm CowSide II from Charm Sciences Inc. (Lawrence, MA),
114 Eclipse 100 and Eclipse 3G from ZEULAB S.L. (Zaragoza, Spain). All tests are based on the
115 inhibition of the growth of the microorganism *Geobacillus stearothermophilus* var.
116 *calidolactis*. The color indicator in most of the methods used is bromocresol purple, but for
117 the BRT MRL and BR-AS Special it is brilliant black. Of all kits, the 96-well microtiter plate
118 format was used, except for Charm CowSide II which was in individual test vials. The
119 commercial tests were stored between 4 and 8 °C and used following the instructions of the
120 kit manufacturers. In every run of each inhibitor test, blank reference milk (mixture of 6
121 negative goats' milk samples) and antibiotic standards were included, these last doped in
122 blank goats' milk at different concentrations depending on the detection capabilities of each
123 method. Oxytetracycline (O5875), benzylpenicillin (PENNA), sulfadiazine (S8626), and
124 sulfadoxine (S7821), all from Sigma-Aldrich (Bornem, Belgium) were used as control
125 standards. The milk volume added to the wells and the test vials was 100 μ L in all methods

126 except in Charm Blue Yellow II it was 50 μ L. For all milk samples each microbial inhibitor
127 test was performed in duplicate.

128 All microbial tests were incubated in a covered waterbath (Type 19 + MP thermostat from
129 Julabo Labor-technik GmbH (Seelbach, Germany)) at 64.0 ± 0.2 °C, except for the Charm
130 CowSide II test vials that were incubated in a Charm digital dry block incubator 220V
131 (Charm Sciences Inc.), Eclipse 100 and Eclipse 3G plates were incubated in a FX incubator
132 (ZEULAB S.L) at 65 °C. The incubation time is different between the microbial methods
133 employed, the BR-AS Special has the shortest incubation time (2 hours), whereas the
134 Delvotest T, Charm CowSide II and Charm Blue Yellow II present the longest (\pm 3 hours),
135 other methods have intermediate times. In microbial inhibitors tests this length of incubation
136 is set by the manufacturer or indicated for the specific batches. However, some microbial
137 tests as BRT MRL, Charm CowSide II, Charm Blue Yellow II, Delvotest SP-NT and Eclipse
138 3G required a longer incubation time (10 to 25 min) to obtain negative results for the
139 reference blank milk controls on each plate possibly because the indicated incubation times
140 are set for cows' milk..

141 The interpretation of the results was carried out visually and instrumentally, except for the
142 Charm CowSide II test which was interpreted only visually. The instrumental interpretation
143 for BR-AS Special, Delvotest SP-NT and Delvotest T plates was done by means of a flatbed
144 scanner (HP Scanjet 7400C, Hewlett-Packard Company, Palo Alto, CA) connected to
145 DelvoScan software, version 3.05 (DSM Food Specialties); the cut-off was set at a Z-value =
146 -3.00. For CMT plates a HP GRLYB-0307 flatbed scanner (Hewlett-Packard Company)
147 connected to CScan software, version 1.32 (Copan Italia S.p.A., Brescia, IT) was used; the
148 cut-off was set at a CIF value = 4.5. Charm Blue Yellow II results were interpreted by Epson
149 Perfection V30 (Epson America Inc., Long Beach, CA) flatbed scanner and GVSCAN
150 software version 1.1 (GEVIS, Fidenza, IT); the cut-off was set at a SCORE = 6.00. BRT

151 MRL, Eclipse 100 and Eclipse 3G results were interpreted photometrically using a
152 spectrophotometer (Multiskan EX, Thermo Scientific, Waltham, MA) with 450 nm (filter 1)
153 and 620 nm (filter 2) for BRT MRL; the cut-off was fixed at a threshold value=40%, as
154 recommended by the commercial company. The threshold value (%) was calculated for each
155 plate by measuring the absorbance of eight negative and positive controls (NC and PC,
156 respectively), using the following conversion formula: (average sample absorbance - average
157 NC)/(average PC- average NC) × 100 = % value. Eclipse 100 and Eclipse 3G were read using
158 590 nm (filter 1) and 650 nm (filter 2), the cut-off were set by the average absorbance for
159 eight blank goats' milk samples increased by 0.3 or 0.2, respectively. By visual interpretation
160 the samples were evaluated as “negative” (yellow color), “positive” (blue-purple color), and
161 doubtful (intermediate colors between yellow/blue-purple).

162 ***2.3. Treatments of positive milk samples***

163 To check that all milk samples used in the study were free of antibiotic residues, the positive
164 milk samples for any microbial inhibitor test were tested the day after with the addition of β -
165 Lactamase ES (Sekisui Enzymes West Malling, UK), 4-aminobenzoic acid (PABA) (Sigma-
166 Aldrich, Bornem, Belgium) or CaCl₂ (Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany) and by means of
167 different group-specific receptor-binding assays (Twinsensor BT, 3SENSOR, and 4SENSOR
168 from Unisensor s.a. (Liège, Belgium); Charm MRL BLTET2 from Charm Sciences Inc.
169 (Lawrence, MA) and β star from Neogen Corporation (Lansing, MI). After the analyses by
170 rapid tests, the positive samples were confirmed with a chromatography method (LC-
171 MS/MS) at ILVO as described by Daeseleire, De Ruyck, & Van Renterghem (2000).

172 Also, milk samples testing positive in the initial residue screening, were retested after the
173 different milk pre-treatments to try to reduce the number of false-positive results for goats'
174 milk and hence establishing the best strategy for analysis by each microbial method.
175 Following sample treatments were tested: heat treatment (80 °C for 10 min), fat removal

176 (centrifuging at 3,100 g for 10 min at 4 °C, then removal of the fat on the top with cotton
177 tipped applicators, and the last treatment was fat removal followed by heat-treatment).
178 Besides, milk without any treatment was analyzed.

179 **2.4. Statistical Analysis**

180 The differences between the reading system used for the interpretation of the microbial tests
181 results (visual and instrumental) were tested with McNemar's test. Statistical analyses were
182 performed using SAS, version 9.2, 2001 (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC).

183 **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

184 The Table 1 shows the specificity (false positive rate) by the visual and instrumental reading
185 of different commercial inhibitor tests developed for cows' milk. According to the
186 instrumental interpretation, the Copan Milk Test, Eclipse 100 and Delvotest T presented a
187 high specificity (99-99.5 %), obtaining a false positive rate between 0.5 and 1 %. The Charm
188 CowSide II (73.4 %, visual reading) and the BR-AS Special (77.9 %) presented a much lower
189 specificity (77.9 %) compared to the other microbial inhibitor tests studied. Charm Blue
190 Yellow II (94.5 %) and Delvotest SP-NT (93.9 %) and were also showing a specificity < 95
191 % (> 5% of false positive results). It is worth noting that following the kit inserts the
192 Delvotest T, Eclipse 100 and Eclipse 3G are suitable to be used for the testing of goats' milk,
193 while for BR-AS Special, Brilliant Black Reduction Test MRL (BRT MRL), Charm CowSide
194 II, CMT-Copan Milk Test and Delvotest SP-NT just 'milk' without any specification is
195 indicated as matrix and for the Charm Blue Yellow II specifically 'cows' milk'.

196 For some tests, a significant agreement was found between visual reading and instrumental
197 reading (Copan Milk Test, Eclipse 3G, Delvotest T, and Delvotest SP-NT MCS), whereas for
198 the other tests, no significant agreement was found (BR-AS Special, BRT MRL, Eclipse 100,
199 and Charm Blue Yellow II). In all latter tests, the specificity calculated by visual reading was
200 lower compared to instrumental interpretation (Table 1).

201 These differences indicated more positive results and hence faster penalization for a visual
202 reading of the test results for goats' milk (BR-AS Special, BRT MRL, Eclipse 100, and Charm
203 Blue Yellow II). It is important to mention that with each microbial inhibitor test for goats'
204 milk intermediate colors (green-yellow, yellow-blue) were obtained which most of the time
205 were classified visually as positive or doubtful, and instrumentally close to the cut-off
206 established for cows' milk by the kit and software manufactures. Testing cows' milk, Stead et
207 al. (2008) observed that the visual and scanner reading for Delvotest SP-NT in ampoules and
208 multi-plate format gave comparable results. However, these authors also indicated that the
209 visual assessment of samples with intermediate colours (purple in a yellow background) is
210 more difficult and such colours are often interpreted as a suspect positive result.

211 Some authors (Kang & Kongo, 2001; Molina, Segura, Luján, Althaus, Peris Ribera, 1999,
212 Zaadhof, Schulze, & Maertlbauer, 2004) indicated that the number of false positive results is
213 influenced by the incubation time, a longer incubation period produces less positive or
214 doubtful results in cows', ewes' and goats' milk.

215 Despite the fact that the specificity with instrumental reading is more convenient, the visual
216 interpretation of results in microbial inhibitor tests is prevalently used in farms (ampoule
217 versions), dairies and laboratories which may not have the equipment and software to perform
218 the instrumental reading.

219 The false positive rate (visual interpretation of the results) indicated by Beltrán, Berruga,
220 Molina, Althaus, & Molina (2015) who tested individual goats' milk from Murciano-
221 Granadina breed with microbial inhibitor tests was similar (0.6-4.3 %) compared to the values
222 found in this study for instrumental reading (0.5-6.1 %), except for BR-AS Special (22.1 %)
223 but lower for visual interpretation in most of the tests (6.1-34.2 %). It is important to mention
224 that milk samples from individual animals, which present a higher variability on composition
225 and quality parameters, while in control quality programmes in general bulk milk samples are

226 analysed, which present a lower percentage of false positive results (Comunian, Paba, Dupre,
227 Daga, & Scintu, 2010).

228 On the other hand, no false negative results were found, because one of the positive samples
229 was confirmed by chromatographic analysis (LC-MS/MS) for tetracyclines ($< 10 \mu\text{g/kg}$) at
230 ILVO laboratories, and all microbial inhibitor tests detected it. Therefore, this sample was
231 removed from the study ($n= 199$).

232 To try to deepen and better understand the differences between visual and instrumental
233 readings of the results from microbial inhibitor tests, the samples were classified into 4
234 categories (1, 2, 3 and 4) based for instrumental reading on following cut-off values
235 calculated for each test: cut-off - $3\times\text{SD}$ (standard deviation), cut-off, and cut-off + $3\times\text{SD}$ and
236 the four classes for visual reading were based on the colour of the test medium after
237 incubation: yellow, intermediate yellow-blue, intermediate blue-yellow, and blue-purple
238 (Table 2). A large percentage of milk samples analysed in this study (Table 1), presented
239 questionable and/or positive results for visual readings, which were classified in categories 2,
240 3 and 4 in Table 2. This fact indicates that the values close to the cut-off may have
241 intermediate coloration that hinder their interpretation. It should also be noted that in many
242 cases the final result of these milk samples which are close to the cut-off might depend on the
243 negative controls used to verify the correct operation of the plates since the incubation time
244 can become too long or too short depending on the nature and composition thereof.

245 To try to reduce the number of false positive results obtained for microbial inhibitor tests all
246 milk samples testing positive (instrumental reading) in the initial residue screening, were
247 retested the next day (Table 3) without any treatment and after the application of three
248 different milk pre-treatments (heat treatment, fat removal and fat removal followed by heat-
249 treatment). The retesting of positive samples after one day without any milk pre-treatment in
250 some tests reduced the number of positive outcomes on microbial inhibitor tests, especially for

251 Eclipse 3G and Charm Blue Yellow II, with a decrease from 4 to 2 and 11 to 5 positive
252 samples, respectively (Table 3).

253 The microbial inhibitor tests BRT MRL and Delvotest T were not influenced by the milk pre-
254 treatment. However, the best milk pre-treatment on most microbial tests was the fat removal
255 followed by heat treatment reducing practically in all cases all positive results. For the BR-AS
256 Special the most effective milk pre-treatments were fat removal and fat removal followed by
257 heat treatment reducing the number of positive outcomes from 44 to 10 and from 44 to 9,
258 respectively .

259 With the implementation of fat removal followed by heat-treatment as milk pre-treatment the
260 specificity of all microbial tests for testing for antimicrobials in goats' milk was > 95 % (BRT
261 MRL: 97.5 %, CMT-Copan Milk Test: 100 %, Charm CowSide II: 100 %; Eclipse 100: 100
262 %; Eclipse 3G: 100 %; Charm Blue Yellow II: 100 %; Delvotest T: 99.5 %, and Delvotest
263 SP-NT MCS: 98 %), except for BR-AS Special (82.4 %).

264 Some authors who tested cows', ewes' or goats' milk have suggested the use of heat treatment
265 to diminish the occurrence of false positive results in microbial inhibitor tests, although they
266 used different heating temperatures and times (82 °C for 5 min (Kang & Kondo, 2001; Oliver,
267 DUBY, Prange, & Tritschler, 1984) and 82 °C for 10 min (Molina, Segura, Luján, Althaus, Peris
268 Ribera, 1999; Molina et al., 2003)).

269 Despite the beneficial effect of the heat treatment on the specificity of microbiological
270 screening tests, one should take into account the possible degradation or antimicrobial activity
271 losses of the antibiotic thermolabile substances eventually presents in milk due to the high
272 temperature. In fact, Zorraquino et al. (2008) indicated antimicrobial activity losses in beta-
273 lactam antibiotics ranging from 9 to 35% in milk samples treated at 83 °C for 10 minutes. On
274 the other hand, although related studies are non-existent, the effect of the milk fat removal on

275 the detection of antibiotic substances could be estimated as very minimal since most antibiotics
276 are salts present in the water phase of milk

277 Therefore, is important to deepen the study the effect of different milk pre-treatments on
278 positive samples. These treatments could be included as a routine in the standard operating
279 procedures of the monitoring laboratories in order to reduce the number of false positive
280 results in milk residue monitoring programmes, and thus avoiding a problem for goats' milk
281 producers and dairy industries.

282 **4. CONCLUSIONS**

283 In general, most of the commercial microbial inhibitor tests used to detect antibiotics are
284 suitable for the analysis of goats' milk. The specificity of the tests improved if appropriate
285 equipment as instrumental readers were used for the interpretation of the test results compared
286 to the results obtained by visual reading, since for goats' milk usually intermediate colors of
287 the test medium at the end of the incubation are obtained. In this way the testing of residue-free
288 goats' milk samples could result in a penalty contributed to the milk producer.

289 The most effective milk pre-treatment for microbial inhibitor tests to reduce the number of
290 false positive results was the fat removal followed by a heat treatment. The establishment of
291 appropriate operational procedures in the control of the presence of antibiotics in raw goats'
292 milk is crucial to avoid the problems associated with the presence of false positive results,
293 contributing to limit the losses due to discarded milk and dairy products or additional
294 confirmatory analysis costs.

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371 **Table 1.** Specificity (false positive rate) of different microbial inhibitor tests for the
 372 detection of antibiotics in goats' milk (n=199)

Microbial Tests	Instrumental		Visual			p-Value MNT ^a
	P ^b	Specificity (%) ^c	P ^b	Q ^d	Specificity (%) ^c	
BR-AS Special	44	77.9	53	15	65.8	< 0.001
BRT MRL	5	97.5	16	2	91.0	0.001
CMT-Copan Milk Test	1	99.5	2	1	98.5	0.157
Charm CowSide II ^e	-	-	43	10	73.4	-
Eclipse 100	2	99.0	16	5	89.4	< 0.001
Eclipse 3G	4	98.0	5	1	97.0	1.000
Charm Blue Yellow II	11	94.5	24	10	82.9	< 0.001
Delvotest T	1	99.5	2	1	98.5	0.157
Delvotest SP-NT	12	93.9	11	2	93.4	0.317

373 ^a MNT= McNemar test

374 ^b P= positive results

375 ^c Specificity (%)= negatives/total x 100

376 ^d Q= questionable results

377 ^e Charm CowSide II= only visual results

Table 2. Classification of goats' milk samples (n=199) in 4 categories based microbial inhibitor test results (instrumental reading)

Microbial Test	Border values for classification (instrumental reading)					Number of samples per category (instrumental reading)				Number of samples per category (visual reading)			
	SD ¹	3 SD ¹	cut-off -3×SD ¹	cut-off	cut-off +3×SD ¹	Negative		Positive		Negative		Positive	
						1 (-/-)	2 (-/+)	3 (+/-)	4 (+/+)	1 (-/-)	2 (-/+)	3 (+/-)	4 (+/+)
BR-AS Special	0.7639	2.292	-5.292	-3	-0.708	114	41	26	18	107	24	15	53
BRT MRL ²	4.461	13.38	26.617	40	53.383	191	3	4	1	177	4	2	16
CMT-Copan Milk Test	0.1521	0.456	4.044	4.5	4.956	196	2	-	1	196	-	1	2
Charm CowSide II ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	135	11	10	43
Eclipse 100	0.026	0.078	0.482	0.560 ⁴	0.638	193	4	1	1	173	5	5	16
			0.504	0.582 ⁵	0.660								
			0.547	0.625 ⁶	0.703								
			0.506	0.584 ⁷	0.662								
			0.567	0.645 ⁸	0.723								
Eclipse 3G	0.012	0.036	0.453	0.489 ⁹	0.525	191	4	1	3	192	1	1	5
			0.508	0.544 ¹⁰	0.580								
			0.520	0.556 ¹¹	0.592								
			0.480	0.516 ¹²	0.552								
			0.489	0.525 ¹³	0.561								
Charm Blue Yellow II	0.4193	1.258	4.742	6	7.258	174	14	11	-	159	6	10	24
Delvotest T	0.5334	1.6	-4.600	-3	-1.400	195	3	-	1	195	1	1	2
Delvotest SP-NT	0.3382	1.015	-4.015	-3	-1.985	160	27	6	6	180	6	2	11

¹ SD: Standard Deviation; ² Cut-off expressed in %; ³ Charm CowSide = only visual results; ⁴⁻⁸ different cut-off for Eclipse 100 in each test plate; ⁹⁻¹³ different cut-off for Eclipse 3G in each test plate

381 **Table 3.** Results in different microbial tests for blank goats' milk samples before and
 382 after special sample treatment.

Microbial Tests	n ¹	Pre-treatments							
		No treatment		Heat treatment		Fat Removal		Fat +Heat	
		N ²	P ³	N ²	P ³	N ²	P ³	N ²	P ³
BR-AS Special	44	-	44	-	44	10	34	9	35
BRT MRL	5	-	5	-	5	-	5	-	5
CMT-Copan Milk Test	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-
Charm CowSide ⁴	53	12	41	50	3	25	28	53	-
Eclipse 100	2	-	2	2	-	1	1	2	-
Eclipse 3G	4	2	2	4	-	2	2	4	-
Charm Blue Yellow II	11	5	6	11	-	6	5	11	-
Delvotest T	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1
Delvotest SP-NT	12	3	9	5	7	7	5	8	4

383 ¹ n: number of positive samples, first day

384 ² N: Negative result, second day

385 ³ P: Positive result, second day

386 ⁴ Charm CowSide = only visual results