An economic evaluation of potential surveillance strategies for the control of Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus in England

B. Bisdorff, R. Booth, J. Rushton, J. Brownlie, M. Peyre, other RiskSur consortium members, D. Pfeiffer, Häslér, B.

Purpose:
Economic analysis of surveillance systems is valuable for decision-making: it shows the consequences of different alternatives and helps ensure that maximum benefit from disease mitigation is obtained from a given amount of resources. Bovine viral diarrhoea virus (BVDV) is a non-notifiable endemic disease of cattle in England with a significant economic impact, yet it lacks a national control and a decision-making process for its elimination. To improve coordination of existing local schemes a surveillance system is needed to establish prevalence levels in order to develop an efficient control strategy.

Methods:
Therefore a study was designed to holistically develop and evaluate BVDV surveillance for England that would enhance resource use efficiency. A proposed surveillance framework included a centralized data coordination and management system, and was compared to the current system (the baseline) with cost-effectiveness analysis that utilises a new surveillance evaluation tool recently developed by the project RISKSUR (www.fp7-risksur.eu). Surveillance costs were being estimated using publications and interviews with decision-makers from the different existing schemes. The effectiveness is expressed as the ability of the system to detect disease in an endemic situation. A cost-effectiveness analysis looking at technical outcome is conducted to look at different surveillance options, also taking into account different ways of coordinating and managing the data in a centralized way.

Results:
Results indicate that a Surveillance Centre for BVDV would cost £60,000 per annum for personnel and overheads. Further results, as well as further sensitivity analysis on their robustness, will be presented.

Conclusion:
The estimated improvement in effectiveness demonstrates that such a Centre would improve sensitivity of surveillance and if well linked to a national control programme lead to economic gains.

Relevance:
An evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of an improved BVDV surveillance system presents a strong case for the implementation of the improved strategy, presenting decision-makers with the requisite evidence for setting-up a BVDV control programme.