***Physical examination of the teat***

The teat is examined with the following techniques:

1. Visual inspection to describe color, shape, and size of the teat and the type and location of any lacerations present;
2. Careful palpation and rolling of the affected teat between thumb and finger to determine any pain elicited as well as location and size of obstructive tissue present;
3. Hand and machine milking by using either commercial milking equipment or a custom-made quarter milking machine to determine milk flow;
4. California Mastitis Test or strip test analysis to screen for evidence of mastitis;
5. Microbial culture and sensitivity testing of a milk sample from a quarter suspected to be affected by mastitis;
6. Probing the streak canal with a teat probe to compare its length with the healthy contralateral streak canal.
7. Probing the teat and gland sinus with a side-opening teat cannula
8. Injecting methylene blue dye into the orifice of a suspected conjoined teat to stain the milk and confirm communication with the primary teat, and
9. Ultrasonography, radiography (contrast or double contrast), and endoscopy to visualize size and location of obstructive tissues in the teat and gland sinuses.