

Teat Plug

Description

A **Teat Plug** is a veterinary device designed to **seal or maintain patency** of the teat canal, particularly after treatment for mastitis, injury, or fibrosis. It is inserted into the teat orifice to either **prevent leakage** or **maintain an open canal** post-treatment. Teat plugs are especially useful in animals with **involuntary milk flow, fibrosis, or teat trauma**.

There are various types of teat plugs based on **material** and **design**, including:

- **Stainless Steel (SS) Ring Metal Teat Plug**
- **Plastic Superior Teat Plug**
- **Ring Base Plug** with flexible or locking base

Specifications

Specification	Details
Length	2 cm – 5 cm
Diameter	2 mm – 4.5 mm
Material	Stainless Steel, Medical-Grade Plastic (ABS/Polypropylene), Rubber (base)
Design Types	SS Ring Metal, Plastic Superior, Rubber Ring Base
Sterilization	Autoclave (Steel), Cold Sterilization (Plastic)
Packaging	Sterile or non-sterile individually packed
Reusability	Both reusable and disposable types available
Application	Primarily veterinary, not used in humans

Types & Designs

- **SS Ring Metal Teat Plug**
 - Made of high-grade stainless steel
 - Features circular ring stopper for easy handling
 - Reusable and durable
 - Excellent for chronic teat fibrosis and long-term use

- **Plastic Superior Teat Plug**
 - Smooth finish; minimizes irritation
 - Lightweight and disposable or semi-reusable
 - Available in sterile packaging
 - Used for mild to moderate blockage or leakage
- **Ring Base Plug**
 - Rubber or silicone ring base for gentle fixation
 - Prevents slippage and provides a soft buffer
 - Best suited for post-injury or post-surgical teat cases

Material

- **Stainless Steel (SS)** – Surgical-grade, corrosion-resistant, reusable
- **Medical-Grade Plastic (ABS, PP)** – Non-reactive, smooth, light-weight
- **Rubber/Silicone Ring Base** – Flexible, animal-safe, holds plug in place gently

Category

- Veterinary Surgical Accessory
- Mastitis & Lactation Management Device
- Post-Treatment Support Tool

Product Form

- **Reusable (SS)** – Requires sterilization after each use
- **Disposable (Plastic)** – Ready-to-use, single application
- **Ring Base Type** – Flexible use depending on case severity

Usage

- Maintains **patency** of teat canal in post-mastitis recovery
- Prevents **involuntary milk flow**
- Helps keep the teat canal open after fibrosis treatment
- Ensures delivery of **dry cow therapy** medications stays effective
- Useful in surgical repairs or trauma cases to **prevent canal sealing**

✔ Advantages

- Minimizes chance of **teat blockage recurrence**
- Prevents **milk leakage** and supports healing
- Easy to insert and remove
- Various materials allow for flexible usage based on case
- Reusable (metal) options reduce long-term costs
- Provides comfort and protection to inflamed teats

⚠ Disadvantages

- Improper use may irritate or tear the teat lining
- Needs proper sizing — oversized plug may cause pain
- Risk of infection if not sterilized properly
- May be expelled by the animal if not secured well
- Not suitable for all species (e.g., very small teats in goats)

🛡 Precautions

- Use correct size to match teat anatomy
- Always sterilize reusable plugs
- Monitor the animal to ensure plug remains in place
- Do not leave in for excessive periods without supervision
- Discard single-use plugs after application
- Use under **veterinary guidance** only

🌐 HS / HSN Code

- **HS Code:** 9018.90
- **HSN Code:** 9018.90.99
Covers all surgical instruments and veterinary tools, including intra-teat devices.

Handling Instructions

- Handle with sterile gloves
- Lubricate tip if necessary before insertion
- Insert gently and ensure snug placement
- Remove with care — do not tug forcefully
- Clean and sterilize thoroughly after removal (if reusable)

Sterilization Details

- **Stainless Steel:** Autoclave at 121°C for 15–20 minutes
- **Plastic Types:** Cold sterilization (2% glutaraldehyde) or use pre-sterile disposables
- **Rubber/Silicone Ring:** Chemical disinfection only — not suitable for autoclave

Veterinary Application

- Widely used in **cows and buffaloes**
- Helps in:
 - **Post-mastitis recovery**
 - **Teat injury or surgery support**
 - **Milk retention prevention**
 - **Dry cow therapy** administration
- Used both on **farms and veterinary hospitals**
- A vital tool in managing **teat health and udder hygiene**

Human Application

- **Not used or approved** in human medical care
- Modern lactation care in humans uses:
 - Breast shields
 - Milk expression techniques
 - Anti-leak pads or suction support
- Teat plugs are strictly **veterinary tools**

? FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

Q1: What is a teat plug used for?

It prevents leakage and keeps the teat canal open during or after treatment.

Q2: Is it reusable?

Stainless steel types are reusable; plastic ones are usually disposable.

Q3: Is it safe for the animal?

Yes, if used correctly and monitored. Always select the right size.

Q4: Can I leave it in for long periods?

Only under vet supervision. Overuse can cause irritation or infection.

Q5: Is it used in humans?

No. Teat plugs are not used in human medicine.

