Cistern Size and Cisternal Recoil After Milk Letdown. Caja et al., page 2409. Two groups of dairy cows were used to evaluate changes produced by stage of lactation and induction of milk ejection. Cisternal milk was evacuated by teat drainage, and cisternal area was measured by direct udder scanning. Volume of cisternal milk and cisternal area correlated positively. As lactation stage increased, volume of cisternal milk and cisternal area decreased, but percentage of cisternal milk increased. Cisternal area increased rapidly after oxytocin injection and decreased slowly for 1 h, apparently causing reflux of cisternal milk to the alveolar compartment. We called this phenomenon ‘cisternal recoil’ and it may explain the increase in residual milk when milking is delayed after milk ejection.