Tetracyclines are a class of antibiotics which contain 4 (tetra) carbon rings (cycline). This class of compounds act on many gram-positive and gram negative bacteria, including some anaerobic as *Bacteroides fragilis*. The control of these residues in milk has been performed through programs of the National Sanitary Surveillance Agency and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply. These residues can impair bone development of children, interfering with the absorption of calcium by the bones and causing changes in the dentition. In addition, these residues can complex with divalent cations such as Ca$^{2+}$, Mg$^{2+}$ and Fe$^{2+}$, and its bacteriostatic character is inactivated in their presence. In Brazil, the maximum residue limit in milk is 100ug/mL for oxytetracycline, tetracycline and chlortetracycline, either individually or in combination. Screening analyses for residues of tetracyclines were performed utilizing SNAP® immunoassay kit on 99 samples of pasteurized and UHT milk. The samples were collected by the Surveillance of the State of Minas Gerais. By the screening method, four positive samples were detected. The results were confirmed by High Performance Liquid Chromatography with UV-VIS detector (HPLC/UV). A Symmetry Shield RP8 column and precolumn were used at a flow rate of 1 ml/min with gradient mode. Extraction and purification of samples were done with solid phase cartridges. The immunoassay results demonstrates that 96% of the samples were below the detection limit of the kit; 15 µg/kg. The four samples above this limit were subject to confirmatory analysis by HPLC/UV, which confirmed the results of the screening method.

Financial support: ANVISA