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TITLE

OCCURRENCE OF EP-LIKE-LESIONS IN GERMAN FATTENING PIGS FROM FARMS WITH RECURRING RESPIRATORY DISEASE

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CONTENT

Backgrounds and Objectives

Examination of lungs at slaughter can be an efficient tool to monitor incidence and severity of respiratory diseases. *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* (M.hyo), as primary pathogen of porcine enzootic pneumonia (EP), is associated with cranio-ventral pulmonary consolidation. Uncomplicated EP-like-lesions can heal though interlobular scar retractions might remain. The present study investigated the frequency of EP-like-lesions and scar lesions in German fattening pigs from farms with recurring respiratory disease.

Materials & Methods

In total 4611 entire lungs from 51 German fattening farms with recurring respiratory disease were macroscopically examined for the occurrence of cranio-ventral pulmonal consolidation (EP-like-lesions) during slaughter process (on avg. 90.4 lungs per farm). According to farmer statements 98% (49/51) of the farms housed M.hyo vaccinated pigs. Extent of EP-like-lesions was quantified using a modified Madec Score. Therefor all seven pulmonary lobes were examined individually and scored according to the extent of the lesions from 0 to 4 (maximal EP-lung score per pig (EP-LS) is 28). Furthermore, presence of scar lesions was recorded.

Results

EP-like-lesions were found in 49.4% (2278/4611) of all examined lungs. The average EP-LS out of all investigated lungs was 2.1 (min: 0.1; max: 8.8; SD: 1.9) and out of all affected lungs 3.6 (min: 1.1; max: 9.4; SD: 1.8). Classification of the extension of EP-like-lesions showed that 34.1% of the lesions were of medium size (score 1 to 4), while 15.4% of the lesions can be considered to be severe lung lesions (score ? 5). In total 17.7% (814/4611) of all lungs showed scar lesions.

Discussion & Conclusion

EP-like-lesions of various severity are highly prevalent in German fattening pigs with recurring respiratory disease. Besides lesions probably resulting from current M.hyo infection, many animals showed scar lesions resulting from older, healed EP-like-lesions.