THE EFFECT OF ALTRENOGEST TREATMENT ON INCIDENCE AND PREVENTION OF EARLY PARTURITION IN SOWS

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Introduction

Altrenogest is proven the effective tool for synchronization of gilts. Physiological length of gestation is considered 115-116 days, with high variability reported (110-121d of pregnancy), farrowing before day 113 considered as early parturition.

The aim of the study was to investigate the efficacy of altrenogest administration on 109–111d of gestation in sows (n=354) on preventing early parturition the farrowing distribution.

Material and Methods

The trial was done on commercial farm with reported variability of parturition by decision on farm on three subsequent batches of sows randomly allocated into groups according to the parity. The effect of altrenogest (20 mg, Altresyn®) treatment was evaluated on 75 sows compared to control (279). Treated animals received daily individual dose on day 109-111 of gestation based on the sow’s insemination date. Optimum farrowing was defined as 115-116d, early farrowing as \( \leq 114d \) and late farrowing as \( \geq 117d \) of gestation. Statistical analysis was conducted using Unistat 6.5. Excel. Chi-square test and contingency tables were used for the evaluation of differences among frequency of early, optimum and late parturition.

Results

Significant effect of treatment was observed in 61.3% (n=46/75) of treated sows farrowed in optimum gestation length period (115-116 days) compared to control 42.7% (n=119/279) (p= 0.004). Numerical decrease of early farrowing was confirmed in treated group compare to control 12% (9/75) vs. 19.7% (55/279) (p= 0.1233). Late farrowing was as well lower numerically in treated group 26.7% (20/75) vs. 37.6% (105/279) (p= 0.0777).

Discussion and Conclusions

Most of farrowing events occurred between 115-116d in group treated by altrenogest, the frequency of late parturition (\( \geq 117d \)) was numerically lower. Optimum gestation length is associated with lower risk for stillborn piglets as well as with optimum farrowing management. Altrenogest could be one of the possible solutions for farms experiencing such problems.