

TITLE

COMPARATIVE EFFICACY OF ORAL MELOXICAM (METACAM® 15 MG/ML ORAL SUSPENSION FOR PIGS) AND INJECTABLE KETOPROFEN AS METAPHYLAXIS TREATMENT IN POST-PARTUM SOWS

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CONTENT

Introduction

Mastitis-metritis-agalactia (MMA) is a complex syndrome in which hypogalactia or agalactia occurs in a clinical or subclinical way within the first hours postfarrowing. It can impact severely piglet performance and welfare. The aim of this study was to compare the efficacy of a single administration of oral meloxicam to injectable ketoprofen in sows as metaphylactic treatment on litter performance.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The trial was conducted on a Spanish 2000-sow farrow-to-wean. A total of 340 sows was randomly allocated at farrowing (d0) to two treatments: One group (T, n=164) was treated with a dose of oral meloxicam (Metacam® 0.4mg/kg b.w.). The other one (C, n=176) was treated with injectable ketoprofen (3mg/kg b.w.). The treatments were applied once the parturition had finished. Performance of the two treatment groups was compared for: number of liveborn, piglet mortality rate and litter weights on the day of birth (d0) and on the 16th day of life. Crossfostering was allowed within treatment group and the litter weighted immediately thereafter.

RESULTS

Number of liveborn piglets (C=12.6 vs T=12.5) and litter weight of day-old piglets (C=17.7 kg vs. T=18.0 kg) were not statistically different between groups ($p>0.05$). A significant reduction of losses (T=0.78 piglets vs C=1.03 piglets, $p<0.05$) and a higher litter weight at 16 days of age (T=49.83 kg vs. C=47.76 kg, $p<0.05$) was observed among the sows treated orally with meloxicam.

In spite of the random distribution a difference in parity rank between groups was observed (C=3.56 vs T=4.0, $p<0.05$). Consequently, a contribution of different nursing capacities between groups to the outcome of the study could not be completely discarded.

CONCLUSION

Metaphylactic use of oral meloxicam had a positive impact on both piglet viability throughout lactation and on the weight gain of the litter. Calculated ROI was 7:1 for the Oral Metacam® group.