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TITLE
PRODUCTIVE EFFECTS OF VEPURED® IN A VT2E-POSITIVE FARM WITHOUT CLINICAL SIGNS NOR MORTALITY RELATED TO EDEMA DISEASE.

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CONTENT
Background and Objectives
Edema disease (ED) is an enterotoxaemia caused by the Verotoxin 2e (Vt2e) of E. coli. The subclinical form of the disease is characterized by a delayed growth performance without clinical signs. Detection of the vt2e gene in piglets allows the identification of this disease, while vaccination against ED could improve the productive parameters. The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of VEPURED® vaccination on growth performance in a vt2e-positive farm without clinical signs or mortality related to ED.
Material & Methods
A Belgian farrow-to-finish commercial farm, without clinical signs nor mortality related to ED and vt2e positive PCR, was selected. One batch of 621 piglets of 2-4 days of age was randomized in a vaccinated and a control group administrating VEPURED® or 1 ml of PBS, respectively. ED clinical signs, vt2e presence, mortality and individual productive parameters were assessed from farrowing to slaughter.
Results
This farm diagnosed with subclinical ED disease based on vt2e detection, absence of ED clinical signs and mortality, together with a suspicious of reduced productive results. This set-up allowed the assessment of the vaccine efficacy against subclinical ED based on productive results. Individual growth performance was significantly higher (p-value<0.01) in vaccinated animals both at the end of the fattening period (167 dpv) and in the slaughterhouse (2.67 and 2.04 Kg higher in vaccinated group compared to control group, respectively).
Discussion & Conclusion
Piglet vaccination against ED showed a positive effect in this particular farm with a significant improvement of the productive parameters at culling time. These results confirm that piglet vaccination from 2 days of age with VEPURED® could be a useful tool against the delayed growth performance and its economic effects in farms with a subclinical form of ED.