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TITLE

FIXED TIME ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION PROTOCOL IN GILTS, A USEFUL TOOL TO IMPROVE REPRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCE

Juan Cumplido[1], Marta Jimenez[2], Marcial Marcos[2], Cesar Llorente[2], Rut Menjon[2]

[1] *Technical advisor*
[2] *MSD AH*

CONTENT

Background and Objetives
The aim of this study was to compare the efficacy of a FTAI program using buserelin 4µg/ml (Porceptal®, MSD Animal Health) and conventionally based estrous insemination on reproductive performance in commercial Iberian gilts.
Material and Methods
Seventy-one gilts (Iberian x Duroc breed, farm with 750 sows) were included in the study and were randomly assigned to control group (CG, n=27) or Porceptal® group (PG, n=44). Gilts were treated with 20 mg of altrenogest [5 ml of Regumate® oral solution (0.4%)] for 18 days. In CG, estrus was checked once a day from D4 until heat onset and two AI, s were done at 4 and 24h after estrous detection. In PG, gilts were treated with 2.5ml of Porceptal® 120h after last day of treatment with Regumate® and received FTAI 30-33h later. Pregnancy rate, gestation length, farrowing data, total born and weight at birth were recorded
Results
Pregnancy and farrowing rates were different between groups (CG: 74% and 74% vs. PG: 88% and 84%, respectively). PG gestation length was 1 day shorter than in the CG (113.0 d vs 114 d, respectively). The mean number of piglets born alive per gilt was 7,86 (CG) vs 7,53 (PG) ($p>0.05$) and the mean birth weight was 1,49 (CG) vs 1,44 (PG) kg ($p>0,0.5$)
Conclusions
Porceptal® can be a very useful tool in FTAI programs in Iberian farms, especially in gilts synchronized using Regumate®. Pregnancy rates and farrowing rates in Porceptal® group were higher than in the control group and gestation length was shorter. There were no differences in production parameters (piglets born alive and birth weight). FTAI demonstrated other benefits such as: semen savings (expensive in Iberian breed), grouping of farrowings, reduction of non-productive days and efficiency in the farm organization and management