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THE EFFECT OF CLOPROSTENOL AND CARBETOCIN IN FARROWING INDUCTION

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The induction and synchronization of parturition in sows is an habitual practice carried out in many commercial farms to improve and attend sows' farrowing process. The aim of this study was to evaluate the effects of cloprostenol (PGF-Veyx*) and carbetocin (Hypophysin*) in order to concentrate the maximum number of births. This practice increases farrowing assistance in favour of reducing stillborn piglets, improving the colostrum intake and increasing the transference of passive immunity reducing the pre-weaning mortality. A total of 342 sows were randomly divided in three groups: A) Control group= sows without treatment; B) Treatment group= sows treated with cloprostenol and carbetocin, C) PGF group= sows with onset of birth after injection of cloprostenol prior to receiving carbetocin. Animals from group B and C received 2ml/animal (intramuscular) of cloprostenol around 24 hours before the expected farrowing date (day 114 of pregnancy). Animals from group B also received 0.5 ml/animal (intramuscular) of carbetocin between 21 and 24 hours after cloprostenol administration. No differences were found among different groups in total born, live-born piglets and mummified pigs. Neither differences were reported in piglet mortality during the first 48h. Howerver, pigs treated with carbetocin presented fewer stillbirth compared with control group ($p<0.001$). Furthermore, farrowing duration was shorter in animals treated with carbetocin compared to control and PGF group ($p=0.01$ and $p=0.04$ respectively).

In conclusion, when cloprostenol (PGF veyx) and carbetocin (Hypophysin) are administrated to the animals, farrowing becomes shorter and more synchronized, simplifying the assistance. Thus, together with good farrowing practices, pre-weaning mortality can be reduced.

*Marketing Autorization Holder: Veyx pharma, Schwarzenborn, Germany; distributed in Spain by Ecuphar, Barcelona, Spain.