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TITLE
ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION OF THE PORCINE ENZOOTIC PNEUMONIA AND PORCINE PLEUROPNEUMONIA IN PORTUGAL USING SLAUGHTERHOUSE LUNG EVALUATION DURING 2017 AND 2018

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CONTENT
Lung lesion scoring is a useful tool to evaluate the importance of the respiratory disease in swine farms, being bronchopneumonia (BP) and dorsocaudal pleurisy (DCP) amongst the most frequent/relevant lesions observed. Although these lesions are not pathognomonic, their occurrence is usually associated with two agents: Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae and Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae.

The objective of this study was to assess the prevalence of these two types of lesions in slaughter pigs in Portugal. At the time of production of this paper, no similar published data was found regarding Portuguese swine herds.

Between January 2017 and October 2018, 321 batches of pigs from Portuguese farms (with an average of 108,5 monitored pigs per batch) were scored at slaughter using the CEVA Lung Program methodology (which includes Modified Madec System and Modified SPES).

In average, each batch had 27,08% of BP lungs (Q1 – 12,26%; Median – 25,00%; Q3 – 39,13%), resulting in a 1,16 Madec Index (Q1 – 0,28; Median – 0,85; Q3 – 1,72). The average prevalence of cranial pleurisy was 5,75% (Q1 – 0,00%; Median – 3,53%; Q3 – 8,18%) and the average prevalence of scarring was 2,29% (Q1 – 0,00%; Median – 1,08%; Q3 – 3,68%).

Regarding DCP, the average prevalence was 18,22% (Q1 – 4,00%; Median – 10,00%; Q3 - 29,55%), resulting in a 0,49 APP Index (Q1 – 0,12; Median – 0,31; Q3 – 0,76).

These results suggest a relevant prevalence of Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae and Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae infections in the Portuguese swine herds and that controlling the Porcine Respiratory Disease Complex remains a challenge in these commercial farms.