



## BACTERIAL DISEASES

BBD-042

### HEMORRAGIC FIBRINO-NECROTIC PLEUROPNEUMONIA IN SUCKLING PIGLETS

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#### Introduction

In May 2017 two 14-day-old suckling piglets belonging to an Italian farrow to wean farm (987 sows), with a clinical history of sudden death without clinical signs, were sent to the Laboratory of Reggio Emilia (IZSLER) for diagnostic investigations. They belonged to a litter of 16 piglets born from a first parity sow in a unstable PRRS farm. After the first case other 5 litters, belonging to 5 first parity sows were affected. The total morbidity and lethality was 76.2% and 45.8% respectively.

#### Material and methods

Necropsies were performed following standardized procedures as well as bacteriology (including biochemical confirmatory tests) and histological examinations, that were performed on lungs, kidneys and spleen collected during the anatomopathological evaluation. Sensitivity to antibiotics was determined using the disc diffusion method (Kirby-Bauer).

#### Results

Anatomopathological examination showed a diffuse monolateral hemorrhagic fibrinonecrotic pleuropneumonia. *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae* (APP) biotype 1 and serotype 9 was isolated from lungs. Microscopic examination confirmed the presence of fibrinous pleuropneumonia with bacterial aggregates in the alveoli and a depletion of the splenic lymphoid follicles in both piglets. In agreement with the results of the antibiogram the piglets were treated twice by injection with florfenicol (15 mg/kg BW). The antibiotic treatment was effective to tackle the problem.

#### Discussion and conclusion

This is a rare case of pleuropneumonia in 14-day-old suckling piglets as most of the outbreaks are described in fattening pigs. The early onset of pleuropneumonia described could be due to the introduction of a new APP strain; to the lack of vaccination and immunity for APP in gilts; to the lack of passive immunity to protect piglets belonging to first parity sows and to the presence of PRRSV-viremic and immunodepressed piglets. No other outbreaks of pleuropneumonia have been described in the herd in the following months.