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TITLE
M. HYORHINIS – UNDERESTIMATED PATHOGENICITY?

Miriam Viehmann[1], Kerstin Fiebig[2]

[1] *Tieraertzliche Praxis Dr. W. Viehmann, Schrozberg*
[2] *MSD Animal Health, Intervet, Germany*

CONTENT
Background and Objectives
Mycoplasma hyorhinis (MHR), a commensal found in the upper respiratory tract of pigs, is on the other hand also associated with respiratory disease, polyserositis and lameness in affected animals. Herd-specific vaccines are frequently successfully used. Hence, the pathological impact of MHR, is still controversially discussed. This case report describes Enzootic Pneumonia-like lung lesions provoked by MHR infection in young piglets with acute signs of respiratory disease.
Material & Methods
In a 150-sow piglet producing farm, current dry and non-productive coughing and reduced productivity emerged in piglets ~5 wk of age onwards. Sows are vaccinated against PRRSV and E.rhusiopathiae and Parvovirus. Piglets are vaccinated against PCV2 and PRRSV. For diagnostics, untreated weaners were submitted for necropsy. Serosal swabs and lung tissue were collected for bacteriology and PCR (M.hyopneumoniae (MHP), PRRSV, SIV) (IVD, Hanover, Germany) .
Results
Gross pathology yielded lung lesions indicative for Enzootic Pneumonia: grey to purple areas of tissue consolidation in the cranio-ventral lung lobes. While MHP-, PRRSV- and SIV-PCR turned out negative, bacteriological culture offered high-grade of M.hyorhinis (MHR) growth. Subsequent histopathology displayed a moderate acute fibrin-purulent bronchopneumonia with perivascular and peribronchiolar monocytes.
Discussion & Conclusion
MHR can frequently be isolated from lungs of pigs suffering from respiratory disease complex (PRDC). Various authors hypothesized MHR as secondary invader of pneumonic lungs. Though, MHR was the only isolated pathogen in our case and closely associated with respiratory disorders and gross pathological enzootic pneumonia-like lesions. However, number of cases was low. Histology can wisely complement diagnostics, particularly in pretreated animals where culture turn out negative. For effective pneumonia control, we recommend considering MHR likewise as potential pathogen in the pathogenesis of PRDC.