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TITLE

CYSTOISOSPORA SUIS INFECTIONS IN EUROPE AND RISK FACTORS – AN UPDATE FROM A FIELD SURVEY IN AUSTRIA, GERMANY, CZECH REPUBLIC AND SPAIN

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CONTENT

A field study was conducted to determine the presence of *Cystoisospora suis* on pig farms and possible risk factors for piglet cystoisosporosis. 49 farms (65-10,000 sows) were included, 7 each from Austria and Germany, 17 from the Czech Republic, and 18 from Spain. Overall, 603 litters (6-63 litters/farm, mean: 12.3) were examined in the 2nd and 3rd week of life (n=1206 samples) by autofluorescence and considered positive when at least one oocyst could be detected. Faecal consistency was scored for diarrhoea. For each farm a questionnaire was provided for information on herd size, management, disinfection, use of toltrazuril and other medication. Overall, 79.5% of the farms and 31.2% of the litters were positive at least once. The prevalence on the farms was up to 100%. 21/26 farms (80.8%) with diarrhoea and 14/23 non-diarrhoeic farms (60.8%) were positive for *C. suis* ($p=0.124$). 31/58 diarrhoeic samples (53.4%) and 271/545 of the non-diarrhoeic samples (49.7%) were autofluorescence positive. No significant differences ($p>0.05$) were noted for the presence of diarrhoea or *C. suis* for 30 farms /381 litters under toltrazuril treatment. Only three questionnaires specified that a disinfectant with anti-coccidial activity against was used. On two of these no *C. suis* was detected. An important factor for the efficacy of treatment is the consistent application, correct dosing of all piglets before infection or within the prepatent period. Additionally, accompanying measures such as the use of suitable disinfectants are strongly recommended. If toltrazuril is prescribed, the pig farmer should be informed about the correct use of the drug, and the application and efficacy of the drug should be monitored by the attending veterinarian.