

TITLE

GOOD VACCINATION PRACTICE: HOW TO INJECT GILTS IN THE PROPER WAY?

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CONTENT

Background and objectives:

Good vaccination procedures apply from moment of receiving until injecting the vaccine. Often, farmers use a 25 mm size needle to inject gilts. The aim of the study was to test different needle lengths for a perfect intramuscular injection on slaughterhouse material.

Material and methods:

Four gilts necks (carcass weight 125, 132, 114 and 126 kg) were collected at the slaughterhouse. Four different needle lengths (25, 38, 40 and 50 mm) mounted on a syringe were placed perpendicular on the pig skin on the transversal cut surface to localize the region where the needle tip finished. Two milliliters of a gelatin-colored paint mixture were injected with each needle perpendicular on the skin and in the vaccination triangle.

Results:

The subcutaneous fat layer thickness in the injection region of the three gilts was 15 to 27 mm. At any angle, the tip of the 25 mm needle always resulted in this fat layer. The same was observed with the 38 mm needle, however on the verge of the muscle region. Only the 40 and 50 mm sized needle reached the deep muscles in the neck region. The same observation as above was made with the colored liquid for the 25, 40 and 50 mm needle. The 38 mm needle barely reached the muscles, when injecting through a thin subcutaneous fat layer.

Conclusion and discussion:

This study concluded that injecting perpendicular in the correct vaccination place with a 40 or 50 mm needle resulted in a correct IM injection. The live weight of the gilts varied from 139 to 161 kg. A follow up study will test needle length sizes in heavier multiparous sows. In conclusion, it is important as part of good vaccination procedures to inform farmers regarding the adequate material to realize a correct intramuscular vaccination.