

TITLE

HEALTH BENEFITS OF SETTING UP AN INTRADERMAL VACCINATION PROGRAM FOR PIGLETS

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CONTENT

Background and Objectives

The intradermal route for administration of swine vaccines is increasingly used. It offers the advantages of a direct approach to stimulate immunity resulting in the possibility to implement a humoral, cellular and mucosal immune response.

Pressure injectors used for intradermal vaccination avoid pathogen's transmission risk due to needles, as they are needle free.

In this field case, the objective, with an intradermal vaccination program for piglets, was to improve the ergonomics of the vaccination and to reduce the number of "needle" injections.

Material and Methods

In a 640 sows farrow to finish farm with 10 batches management and weaning at 21 days, an intradermal vaccination scheme for piglets at weaning, based on intradermal licensed vaccines, was set up to replace an equivalent intramuscular one (*Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* and Porcine Circovirus type 2).

Results

The operators observed an improvement in work comfort and safety (no needles to handle). Piglets showed less stunting at the end of the vaccination.

After one year without pathogen's transmission risk due to needle, a comparison in post-weaning period showed a decrease of arthritis incidence and a reduction in antibiotic use of more than 70% (from 20% of animals treated individually for arthritis to 5.5%). At the same time, post-weaning mortality fell by more than 50% (from 5.3 to 2.5%). The rate of "Pigs Without antibiotics" labelling recorded over 9 consecutive months increased by nearly 40% (from 66 to 92%).

Discussion & Conclusion

In addition to improving people's working comfort, setting up an intradermal vaccination program for piglets, led to an improvement in animal welfare. In this study, it coincided with a lasting decrease in the incidence of arthritis and individual treatments, allowing a much higher proportion of animals to meet the requirements for "Pigs Without antibiotics" labelling, which means that they are better valued.