

VULVAR DISCHARGE SYNDROME IN SOWS AFTER ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

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Introduction

Vulvar discharge is frequently observed in sows with bacterial infection of the urogenital tract and cause economic losses due to reproductive failure in affected sows. Several risk factors for this condition have been described and, therefore, a good diagnostic workup is mandatory.

Material & Methods

This report describes a case of vulvar discharge syndrome in a 480 sow pool system with seven satellite farrowing farms affecting 10% of the sows immediately after insemination. Before a herd examination was conducted, the reproductive data was systematically analyzed. The non-return rate of sows coming from the different satellite farrowing farms varied between 87 and 93%. The general health of the sows in the farrowing units determined by the prevalence of the post-partum dysgalactia syndrome and lameness was within the regular range. A clinical examination in the breeding unit was conducted, and sows were found in good general health condition. In five sows with purulent vulvar discharge a vaginoscopic examination was conducted and a swab of the cervix was obtained.

Results

In all affected sows a reddening of the cervical area with excessive vaginal content was observed and the bacteriological investigation revealed a high content of beta-hemolytic *Streptococcus spp.* with significant antimicrobial resistance. In addition, an ultrasonographic examination indicated no inflammation of the urine bladder or the uterine horns. Furthermore, the breeding management was analyzed revealing a lack of hygiene and a poor stimulation of the sows. Based on the findings a cervicitis in the sows due to management problems in the breeding unit, was diagnosed.

Discussion & Conclusion

In this case report, the vaginoscopic and ultrasonographic examination was essential to localize the

inflammation of the urogenital tract. Furthermore, an investigation of the breeding management was necessary to identify the main cause for the vaginal discharge, which was mainly poor hygiene.