



RESIDENT SESSION

RES-005

ASCARIS SUUM INFESTATION IN DANISH HIGH HEALTH GILTS - A CASE REPORT

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Introduction

Ascaris suum is a common parasitic infestation in modern pig production and clinically often silent. In young pigs, *A. suum* can cause reduced growth, and “white spots” due to larvae migration can lead to condemnation of the liver at slaughter. Clinical signs in breeding animals are rare.

Material & Methods

In a Danish SPF herd, seropositive of *M. hyopneumoniae* (600 sows with weaners, bought-in replacement gilts, Danish LY) mated gilts developed severe respiratory symptoms with dyspnea and fever after the transfer to the gestation unit. Five of the 17 affected gilts died, and 12 gilts had abortions, however slowly recovered. Necropsy of the dead gilts was performed by the herd veterinarians, and lungs were submitted to the Laboratory of Swine Diseases, Kjellerup, Denmark for pathological, bacteriological, and virological examinations as well as to the Danish Veterinary Institute, Lyngby, Denmark for histopathological examination.

Results

The gross lesions indicated interstitial pneumonia. PRRS, PCV2, and influenza virus could not be detected by PCR. The histopathological examination revealed interstitial and purulent pneumonia with small necrotic foci and massive eosinophilia. Cross-sections of roundworms identified as *A. suum* were present in necrotic foci and alveolus.

Discussion & Conclusion

The final diagnosis was acute parasitic pneumonia caused by a massive infection of *A. suum*. The farm has previously changed gilt supplier which may have resulted in the introduction of naïve gilts to a heavy infected farm environment. To prevent further clinical cases, large portions of sow fecal material were introduced to the gilts immediately after insertion to the farm. Five days later, the whole herd was treated with Fenbendazol 5 mg/kg live weight for one day. Furthermore, the gestation unit was washed and disinfected. In the following period, no clinical problems after the introduction of gilts to the gestation unit have been observed.