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TITLE

EFFICACY OF AN INJECTABLE TOLTRAZURIL - GLEPTOFERRON (FORCERIS®) TO CONTROL COCCIDIOSIS (CYSTOISOSPORA SUI) IN COMPARISON WITH IRON SUPPLEMENTED PIGLETS WITHOUT ANTICOCCIDIAL TREATMENT

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CONTENT

Background and Objectives

Neonatal coccidiosis caused by *Cystoisospora suis* occurs in association with pig husbandry worldwide and is clinically characterised by diarrhoea and reduced body weight gains. Efficacy and safety of an injectable toltrazuril/gleptoferron combination (Forceris®) in control of coccidiosis were investigated in naturally infected piglets.

Material & Methods

In a multicentric, blinded study 1508 piglets in five European commercial pig farms in France, Germany and Spain, were selected and randomised to treatment group (single intramuscular treatment with Forceris®, 45 mg toltrazuril and 200 mg iron per piglet at day 1, 2 or 3 of age) or control group (200 mg iron per piglet at day 1). Body weights, faecal scores and oocysts counts (given as oocysts per gram of faeces- OPG) were observed for 21 days. 1138 piglets were naturally exposed to coccidiosis and data sets of these animals were used for statistical analysis.

Results

Efficacy of Forceris® in control of coccidiosis was confirmed in higher body weight gains (5936.9 ± 1821.1 g vs. 5625.6 ± 1660.3 g), lower percentage of animals with diarrhoea ($p < 0.0001$), fewer samples with positive oocysts counts as well as lower excretion peak and reduced OPG values from study day (SD) 4 - SD 21 ($p < 0.0001$). Pre-weaning mortality was significantly lower in Forceris® treated piglets (7.6 %) compared to control group (10.6 %; $p = 0.046$).

Discussion & Conclusion

The results of our study in naturally infected piglets demonstrate the efficacy of Forceris® at a fixed dose of 1.5 ml/piglet when administered once at day 1, 2, or 3 of age. Coccidiosis due to *C. suis* was successfully controlled as Forceris® treated piglets displayed reduced oocyst excretion, less diarrhoea and improved body weight gain. Forceris® is a safe and efficient option to control coccidiosis and to prevent iron deficiency anaemia at the same time.