

A case of generalized exudative epidermitis in suckling piglets remembering some basics

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Clinical signs

- In a 9 sows farrow-to-finish pig farm, 4 piglets (P1-P4) have been fostered within 24 hours post-farrowing
- At 10 days old, acute exudative epidermitis lesions are detected on P1 and P2 (but not on P3, P4 nor on littermates)



Decisions and treatments

- P1: euthanized after blood sampling and necropsied for samples collection
- P2:
 - ✓ meloxicam: 0.4 mg/kg BW IM on day 0, 1, 2 because of high RT (40.8, 39.6 and 40.5°C)
 - ✓ amoxicillin Long Acting: 25 mg/kg BW IM on day 0, 2, 4, 6
 - ✓ skin ointment based on honey and essential oils: once or twice per day, from day 3 to 7
- 3 resident piglets/8 with skin lesions around ear tag and/or castration wound:
 - ✓ skin ointment based on honey and essential oils: once or twice per day, from day 2 to 6
- Sow udder (mild lesions): no treatment

Diagnosis

- Blood sampling from P1-P4 to compare IgG serum concentration: 0,8-0,9 g/L (P1-P2) vs. 10,1-10,4 g/L (P2-P3)
- Swabbing for aerobic microbial culture and antibiogram:
 - Staphylococcus hyicus in blood of P1 (+), a strain confirmed susceptible to all 15 tested antimicrobials but tetracyclines
 - Staphylococcus hyicus and Staphylococcus aureus in stimulated precaval lymph node (P1: +++)
 - Staphylococcus hyicus, Staphylococcus aureus, Streptococcus suis on the skin under the most severe crusts (P1: +++)

Discussion

- ❖ Generalized exudative epidermitis (EE) in suckling piglets is a septicæmic condition
- ❖ characterized by severe skin lesions associated to Staphylococcus hyicus.
- ❖ Two main contributing factors probably played an important role in this case:
 - the lack of colostrum protection;
 - skin abrasion or trauma: fighting for milk, castration wounds, lesions close to the ear tag.
- ❖ Treat severely affected piglets with parenteral associated to local treatment: early, during the acute phase.



Early detection, heavy dosage and long-term-enough treatment are needed to limit/avoid such losses



- Worsening of skin lesions despite treatment
- Body Weight: 3.3 kg

- Healing
- Body weight: 3.9 kg

Day 10

Choix de l'antibiotique

1er choix

procaine benzylpénicilline

2e choix

triméthoprime + sulfamides

amoxicilline

ampicilline

lincomycine + spectinomycine

procaine benzylpénicilline + néomycine

3e choix

lincomycine

oxytétracycline

cefquinome

<https://formularium.amcra.be/i/52>