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Excenel™ RTU Sterile Suspension Pre-weaning Demo-trial in Germany

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INTRODUCTION

The objective of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of Excenel™ RTU Sterile Suspension in reducing piglet mortality from birth to weaning, reducing the proportion of lightweight piglets at weaning and positively affecting average daily gain from birth to weaning.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted at a single site in Germany and included five farrowing groups consisting of 26 to 40 sows per group. Included in the study were a total of 157 litters and 1443 piglets. The farrowing groups occurred sequentially over time during January and February 2000

All piglets within a farrowing group were assigned to the same treatment, either Excenel RTU or control. Farrowing groups 1, 3, and 5 representing the Excenel RTU treatment and groups 2 and 4 representing the untreated control. Excenel RTU was administered to the piglets by intramuscular injection in the amount per piglet of 20mg on day 1, 20mg on day 7, and 40mg at weaning. Age at weaning ranged from 18.2 to 19.3 days. Individual piglet weights were recorded on day 1 and at weaning. Piglet mortality data was also recorded.

RESULTS

A total of 157 litters (95 in the Excenel RTU and 62 in the Control) with 1443 piglets (816 in the Excenel RTU and 627 in the Control) were included in the study.

Piglet mortality was significantly lower for the Excenel RTU treatment versus the Control (8.5% vs. 13.3%, respectively), a 36% reduction. No significant differences were observed between Excenel RTU-treated piglets and the control group for average daily gain (0.255 kg/day vs. 0.249 kg/day, respectively) or for lightweight piglets (4.0% vs. 3.6%, respectively).

DISCUSSION

The use of Excenel™ RTU Sterile Suspension significantly reduced piglet mortality by 36% compared to the control group. Although this study did not show a significant increase in average daily gain from birth to weaning or a decrease in lightweight piglets at weaning, it is directionally in agreement with a similar study performed at multi-locations globally, which gave positive results for all three parameters evaluated. The report showed a 32% reduction in piglet mortality, significant improvement in average daily gain from birth to weaning in the Excenel-treated piglets and the overall percentage of lightweight pigs at weaning was reduced (Zhou, et al. 2000).

The use of Excenel RTU as a part of an existing health program is not intended to replace sound management. The program is to be used in farms that have known risk factors and disease problems as a preemptive approach.

It is concluded that treatment of pre-weaned piglets with Excenel RTU on day 1 of age (20mg), day 7 of age (20mg), and weaning (40mg) significantly reduces piglet mortality, with a possibility to increase average daily gain from birth to weaning.

Results: Piglet Mortality, Average Daily Gain, and Lightweight Piglets			
Treatment Group	Mortality (%)	Average Daily Gain (kg)	Lightweight Piglet (%)
Excenel RTU	8.5	0.255	4.0
Control	13.3	0.249	3.6
Difference	-4.7	0.006	-.04
<i>p</i> value	0.0471	0.2353	NS