

Pilot study of preventive homeopathic treatment for *colibacillosis* in a swine farm in the state of São Paulo, Brazil

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ABSTRACT

Background: Diarrhea has become an economically important disease in pigs due to intensive management system which has been used. *Escherichia coli* is the most important etiological agent of neonatal and post weaning diarrhea in swine colibacillosis and the greater impact of the disease in pigs. The demand of consumers seeking meat without chemical residues and the prohibition of the use of antibiotics and chemotherapeutics in swine production has led to seek an alternative medicine for preventive and therapeutic treatments in swine breeding. The objective of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of prophylactic treatment for diarrhea swine using homeopathic medicine, *Escherichia coli* biotherapeutic and search experimental evidence that may indicate the use of *E. coli* biotherapeutic. To evaluate the difference in weight gain of the pigs in groups and this gain is increased with less toxic.

Methods: This study was carried out in a commercial farm in São Paulo state. Stool samples were collected from five piglets presenting diarrhea and examined for the presence of *Escherichia coli* with these strains were made Biotherapeutics for later use. Concomitantly, a detailed interview was done with the owner, about all clinical information useful to choose the best homeopathic medicine, using repertory method. Subsequently, four groups were formed consisting of 11-12 piglets each: a control group (antimicrobial used in the farm routine for treatment of diarrhea), a group treated with the chosen homeopathic medicine - *China officinalis* 30 CH [1](*Cinchona officinalis*) - a group treated with *E. coli* biotherapeutic 30 CH (medicine made from *E. coli* strains collected and isolated from the same farm) and a group treated with both homeopathic and *E. coli* biotherapeutic medicines.

Results: There was no statistical difference in the number of animals presenting diarrhea among groups, but China treated pigs showed greater weight gain compared to the other three groups (Fisher test, $p = 0.0001$), despite the incidence of diarrhea. (tables 1 and 2)

Conclusion: This preliminary study suggests that the use of homeopathic medicines could improve productivity in swine farms even though clinical manifestations of diarrhea occur.

Keywords: homeopathy, *E.coli*, biotherapeutic, pigs.

Reference:

[1] Kent JT. Repertory of the homoeopathic materia medica. India: B. Jain Publishers, 2006: 1542 p.

Table 1 - Number of animals with diarrhea at the beginning and the end of treatment.

Group	Beginning (number of sick animals) (%)	End (number of sick animals) (%)
<i>E. coli</i> biotherapeutic 30 CH	2 (16.6%)	5 (41.6%)
<i>China off</i> + biotherapeutic 30 CH	1 (8.3%)	0 (0)
<i>China off</i> 30 CH	3(25.0%)	0 (0)
Control group	1 (9.0%)	2 (18.1%)
Total number of animals	47	43

Table 2 -Weight average at the beginning of treatment and weaning.

Group	Beginning (Average weight/ number of animals)	Weaning (Average weight/ number of animals)	Average weight again
<i>E. coli</i> biotherapeutic 30 CH	1116 (12)	3627 (12)	2511**
<i>China off</i> + biotherapeutic 30 CH	1950 (12)	6416 (8)	4466
<i>China off</i> 30 CH	1107 (12)	6100 (12)	4993 *
Control group	1600 (11)	6000 (11)	4400
Total of animals	47	43	

* Fischer's Test, p=0.0001, regarding all 3 other groups.

** Fischer's Test, p=0.001, regarding Control group.



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