Penile injuries in immunocastrated and entire male pigs of one fattening farm

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Application The incidence of penile injuries of immunocastrated boars (IC) were systematically compared to entire male boars (EM) in frequency and severity of penile injuries.

Material and Methods 407 boars (one commercial fattening unit) were assigned to the treatment groups EM (n = 215, remained unvaccinated) and IC (n = 192, vaccinated in 1st and 6th week of fattening (fwk)) with Improvac® (2 ml s.c., Zoetis Deutschland GmbH, Berlin, Germany). Animals were delivered in 4 batches (BA) 12 fwk, 13, 15 and 16 fwk) to the slaughterhouse and the penis was excised during evisceration and evaluated (Weiler et al., 2016).

Results Scars/animal were significantly influenced by treatment (IC vs. EM), batch and treatment x batch. Wounds/animal were only influenced significantly by treatment and were lower in IC than in EM.

Table 1 Number of scars and wounds per animal (mean ± SD), percentage (%) of animals with injuries and with severe injuries

Group	BA	n	Number of scars/ animal	Number of wounds/ animal	% Animals with injuries	% Animals with severe injuries
IC	1	45	2.00 ± 3.02	0.11 ± 0.53	48.89	2.22
	2	82	1.33 ± 2.35	0.23 ± 0.65	48.78	4.88
	3	42	1.21 ± 1.66	0.05 ± 0.31	52.38	0.00
	4	23	1.22 ± 1.91	0.04 ± 0.21	39.13	0.00
	Total	192	1.45 ± 2.35	0.14 ± 0.53	48.44	2.60
EM	1	56	2.61 ± 3.05	0.46 ± 1.37	73.21	14.29
	2	87	2.76 ± 3.13	0.43 ± 1.12	70.11	4.60
	3	45	3.31 ± 2.58	0.24 ± 0.68	88.89	4.44
	4	27	3.59 ± 3.47	0.41 ± 1.08	77.78	22.22
	Total	215	2.94 ± 3.05	0.40 ± 1.11	75.81	9.30
Total		**407**	**2.24 ± 2.84**	**0.28 ± 0.89**	**62.90**	**6.14**

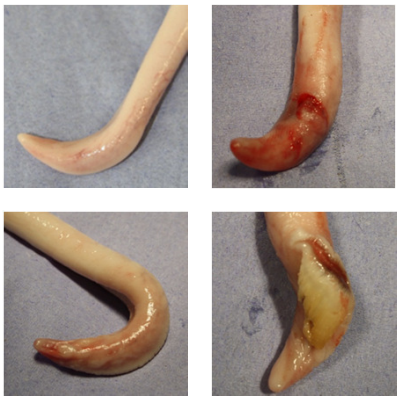

Figure 1 *Pars libra penis* with …
no injuries **wounds**
multiple scars **slightly hypertrophic ridge with abrasions…**

Conclusion It is concluded that immunocastration reduces welfare problems due to penile injuries as it reduces the frequency and severity of penile injuries in IC compared to EM of same age and weight.

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