

plasia and an anomaly of the lungs. The histological examination showed an oedematous derm and a decrease in the size and the number of hair follicles. The architecture of the thyroid vesicles was irregular and the colloid substance was missing, sometimes entirely, in these vesicles.

The epithelium of the bronchioles was flat and detached from the basal membrane. These elements show the similarity between the disorders observed and the « syndrome of respiratory distress » or « Barker syndrom » described in pig, foal and man.

In this production unit the anomaly was only observed in the progeny of one boar, suggesting a genetic relationship. The determinism of this syndrome of respiratory distress was discussed.

### **Advantages and limits of the serological diagnosis of atrophic rhinitis**

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A serological inquiry to investigate the incidence of *Bordetella bronchiseptica* infection in pigs was conducted in a large Belgian slaughter house. A total of 1103 sera were examined. Specific serum agglutinins were found in 91 p. 100 of the samples with titrations equal or superior to 1/40. In Belgium, 25 p. 100 of the animals are estimated to suffer from atrophic rhinitis.

Thus a serious difference exists between the two data.

The difference may have several explanations: variable rhinopathogenic effect of different strains, variation in infection pressure, age of the animals at the time of infection, variation of environmental conditions.

The advantage and the limits of the serological diagnosis are discussed. It is important to determine whether a serologically negative animal may be admitted without risks and, on the other hand, to reject without restriction all serologically positive subjects.

The same questions are valid not only at the individual animal level, but also at the farm level.

In conclusion, on account of the current limits of the different methods of diagnosis suggested, only the SPF breedings afford adequate guarantees against atrophic rhinitis.

### **Excretion of the virus of Aujeszky's disease through the genital tracts of boars. Persistence of the virus in boar semen**

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After experimental infection of three boars through the prepuce, excretion of the virus of Aujeszky's disease through the genital tracts was studied. Three and ten days after inoculation the virus was isolated in samples of semen and in the liquid used for prepuce cleaning. After 10