

Magnesium metabolism in growing pigs

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This report gives data obtained on Mg metabolism from several experiments with 130 growing pigs (from 15 to 60 kg). Standard (cereals and soyabean meal) and semi-synthetic (casein and starch) diets with various levels of calcium, magnesium, phosphorus and vitamin D, were used. The following parameters were measured : absorption, retention, urinary and faecal excretion, plasma and bone Mg levels. Mg-P interaction was also considered. Whatever the diet, the faecal and urinary excretion as well as the absorption and retention of magnesium depended on the dietary Mg level. A high correlation was found between Mg intake and all those parameters (from 0.85 to 0.99). The lowest correlation appeared between urinary Mg and Mg intake because of a high negative interaction between phosphorus/or magnesium intake and urinary magnesium/or phosphorus excretion : the higher the phosphorus ingestion, the lower the urinary magnesium excretion and vice versa. In contrast to other species in which a high antagonism effect is generally observed between P and Mg absorption, a positive relationship was found between the absorption of these minerals in pigs. The minimum Mg requirement was calculated by extrapolation of endogenous Mg excretion in the faeces (400-700 mg/day). This can largely be satisfied by usual diets. Plasma levels ranged from 1.6 to 2 mg/100 ml (mean \pm SD, n = 500 was 1.83 ± 0.03) when animals were fed the control diets. Bone Mg contents ranged from 0.3 to 0.7 p. 100 on dry basis, with an overall mean of 0.4 p. 100 ; it decreased with age up to 4 months. These two parameters varied with the Mg intake and thus could not be used as requirement criteria. The apparent digestibility and retention coefficients of magnesium (30 and 20 p. 100 of Mg intake, respectively) were extremely variable from one experiment to another and were lower than those of Ca and P (near 50 p. 100). Mg deficiency is not important in practice, but this is not the case for Mg overload which in addition to diarrhea may lead to bone mineralization disturbances.

PATHOLOGIE

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Sow milk : humoral and cellular components involved in protection of young piglets against infectious enteritis

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Sow milk has exceptional immunological qualities as compared with cow or ewe milk. Immunoglobulin concentration is high especially that of the IgA class. The concept of lactogenic immunity was clearly established 18 years ago, and numerous research works about T.G.E., *E. coli* or rotavirus have described the characteristics of immune protection

conferred by milk in swine species. Antibodies of the IgA class have a privileged function in the passive protection of piglets against enteritis caused by these enteric agents. The other humoral components (lactoferrin, lysozyme, lactoperoxydase) are still unknown. Recent works have described the different cellular subsets in milk, but their respective roles in the immune protection of young piglets have not been well established. Kinetics of lymphocyte subpopulations and plasma-cells was studied recently in the mammary gland of primiparous sows in relation to pregnancy and lactation. The determinism of the migration of lymphocytes towards the mammary tissue is unknown. Condition of lactogenic immunity seems to depend on several important parameters :

- a) the properties of the enteric agent used as an antigen for immunization,
- b) the conditions of administration of this antigen to the pregnant sow,
- c) the physiological status of the sow at the time of antigen administration.

Identification of porcine epidemic diarrhoea (P.E.D.) in Brittany A clinical study

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Several cases of contagious gastro-enteritis were observed in Brittany during the winter 1981-1982. A study was made in 9 herds in which pigs suffered from digestive disorders. Faeces were collected and antibody kinetics studied in sick animals. No cases of transmissible gastroenteritis were found ; contrary to that Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea (P.E.D.) virus was identified and a seroconversion observed in nearly all the tested sera. A clinical study was performed in these herds. Diarrhoea appeared in unweaned piglets in almost 50 p. 100 of the herds ; the intensity of the observed clinical signs and the piglet mortality rate varied in the different herds according to some parameters which are difficult to evaluate. In all cases, most of the breeding animals and bacon pigs were affected. The mortality conditions of some bacon pigs were discussed.

Porcine influenza in Brittany (Influenza HSW₁N₁)

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An outbreak of influenza occurred in Brittany (France) in december 1981 and the disease widely spread throughout the country until september 1982. Most of the herds were affected and the clinical signs were similar to those described in other countries. Illness