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# Gross and histological lesions associated with a new neonatal porcine diarrhoea syndrome (NNPD) in piglets

Kongsted, H.<sup>1</sup>, Jonach, B.<sup>2</sup>, Haugegaard, S<sup>1</sup>, Jorsal, S.E.<sup>2</sup>, Jensen, T.K.<sup>2</sup>, Nielsen, J.P.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Pig Research Centre, [Danish Agriculture & Food Council](#), Denmark. hko@lf.dk

<sup>2</sup>National Veterinary Institute, Technical University of Denmark, Denmark

<sup>3</sup>Department of large animal sciences, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

**Objective:** The aim of this study was to evaluate gross and histological lesions in diarrhoeic and non-diarrhoeic piglets from four Danish herds having a 1-2 year history of severe neonatal diarrhoea with an unknown etiological background (based upon traditional diagnostic methods for detection of ETEC, *C. perfringens* and rotavirus A).

**Methods:** 51 diarrhoeic and 50 non-diarrhoeic piglets were euthanized at the age of 3-7 days. Necropsies and histological evaluations were performed. One-sided Fisher's exact tests were used to test differences between diarrhoeic and non-diarrhoeic piglets across and within herds ( $\alpha=0.05$ ).

**Results:** Are presented in table 1.

**Conclusion:** Neonatal piglets suffering from NNPD had necropsy and histological lesions which differentiated them from non-diarrhoeic piglets. A poor body condition, dehydration, flaccidity of intestines and intestinal villous atrophy were the most significant findings in the diarrhoeic piglets.

Lesion		Diarrhoeic (%)	Non-diarrhoeic (%)	P-value*
<b>Necropsy</b>	Poor body condition	57	4	< 0.0001 <sup>4</sup>
	Dehydration	29	2	< 0.0001 <sup>2</sup>
	Empty stomach	0	12	1
<b>Small intestines</b>	Flaccidity	73	20	< 0.0001 <sup>3</sup>
	Watery contents	57	30	0.01 <sup>2</sup>
	Hyperaemia of serosa	6	0	0.2
	Enlargement of lymphnodes	18	16	0.9
	Striping of serosa	2	0	1
	Edema in mesentery	4	4	1
	Dullness/ necrosis of mucosa	8	8	1
	Villous atrophy	63	12	< 0.0001 <sup>3</sup>
	Epithelial lesions	20	6	0.04 <sup>1</sup>
Mucosal necrosis	6	0	0.12	
Neutrophil infiltration	33	32	0.5	
<b>Large intestines</b>	Flaccidity	53	6	< 0.0001 <sup>3</sup>
	Liquid contents	48	10	< 0.0001 <sup>3</sup>
	Edema in mesentery	39	20	0.06
	Enlargement of lymphnodes	4	2	1
	Epithelial lesions	33	11	0.01 <sup>2</sup>
Mucosal necrosis	2	0	0.5	

**Table 1. Lesions in 51 diarrhoeic and 50 non-diarrhoeic piglets from four herds.** \*: One-sided Fisher's exact test across herds. Significant associations were also tested within each herd. The numbering (1-4) indicate within how many herds, a significant association was found.