INTRODUCTION

The aim of this study was to demonstrate that UNISTRAIN® PRRS applied by the intradermal route (ID) with a Hipradermic® device in gilts improves the performance of piglets born from vaccinated gilts.

MATERIAL & METHODS

Sixteen gilts, clinically healthy and free from virus and antibodies against PRRS, were randomly assigned to two different groups. One group was vaccinated with UNISTRAIN® PRRS by the ID route (0.2 ml/dose; 10^3.5 CCID₅₀/animal) 4 weeks before artificial insemination (AI). Animals in the non-vaccinated control group received 0.2 ml of PBS (ID). At 90 days of gestation, all the gilts were challenged by intranasal route with a heterologous pathogenic strain of genotype I PRRSV (Italian strain; 89% ORF5 homology; 10^3.4CCID₅₀/ gilt).

RESULTS

Piglets from the non-vaccinated gilts (10.6%) suffered more clinical signs than those born from gilts that had been vaccinated (1.1%). Depression and anorexia were the two clinical signs most observed in this group, and the difference in the proportion of litters affected by depression was statistically higher in the non-vaccinated group (8/8 litters) than in the UNISTRAIN® group (2/8 litters).

DISCUSSION

Indirectly, vaccination of the gilts had an impact on their litters with significantly (p<0.05) better weight performances and average daily weight gain in the vaccinated group (232.5 g/piglet/day±45.1 g) vs control group (191.8 g/piglet/day±46.9 g).

Vincent et al. (2019) concluded that INTRADERMAL VACCINATION WITH UNISTRAIN® PRRS IN GILTS IMPROVES THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR OFFSPRING.

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