

Homeopathy as replacement to antibiotics in the case of *Escherichia coli* diarrhoea in neonatal piglets.

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Abstract

BACKGROUND:

The use of antibiotics in the livestock sector is increasing to such an extent that it threatens negative consequences for human health, animal health and the environment. Homeopathy might be an alternative to antibiotics. It has therefore been tested in a randomised placebo-controlled trial to prevent *Escherichia coli* diarrhoea in neonatal piglets.

METHOD:

On a commercial pig farm 52 sows of different parities, in their last month of gestation, were treated twice a week with either the homeopathic agent Coli 30K or placebo. The 525 piglets born from these sows were scored for occurrence and duration of diarrhoea.

RESULTS:

Piglets of the homeopathic treated group had significantly less *E. coli* diarrhoea than piglets in the placebo group ($P < .0001$). Especially piglets from first parity sows gave a good response to treatment with Coli 30K. The diarrhoea seemed to be less severe in the homeopathically treated litters, there was less transmission and duration appeared shorter.

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