

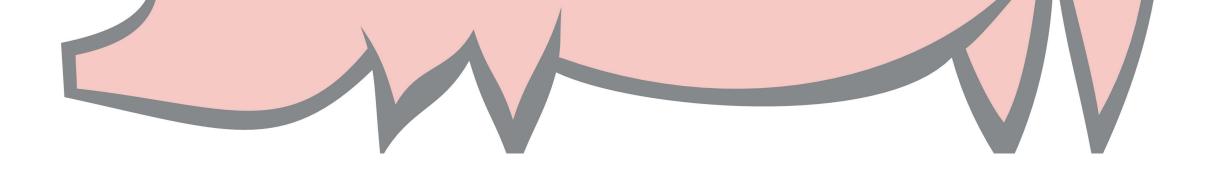
THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN CAUSE OF DEATH AND THE OCCURRENCE OF STOMACH ULCERS IN PIGS SUBMITTED TO AUTOPSY FROM 114 HERDS

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An increased risk of having an ulcer/fibrosis was found in pigs that had died of respiratory disease (43%) compared to pigs that had died of intestinal disease (14%, p=0.017) or arthritis (11%, p=0.049).

The risk of having an ulcer/fibrosis increased with increasing bodyweight (p=0.01), although ulcers were also found in the smallest pigs.

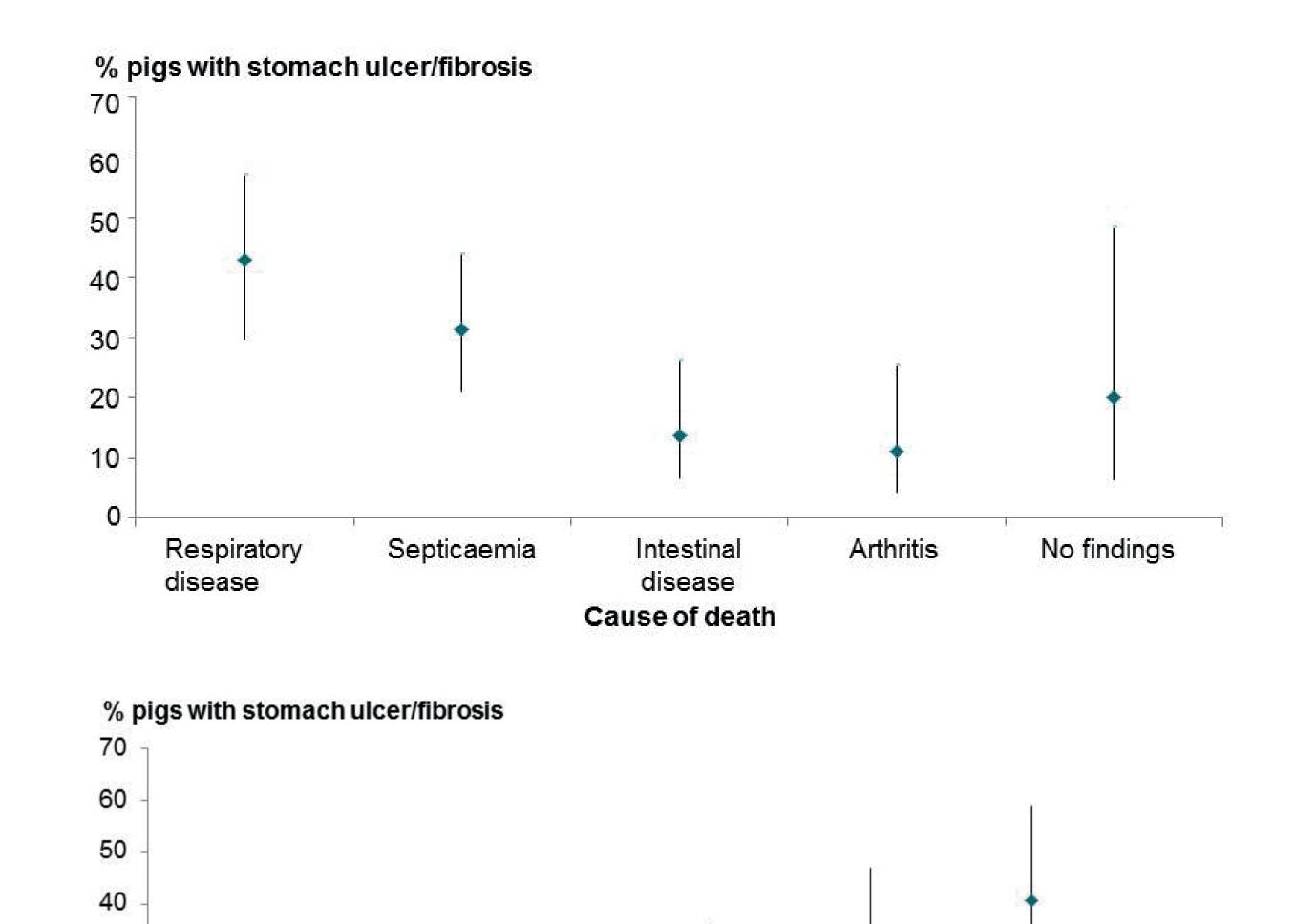


AIM

To determine if there was an association between the cause of death and the presence of stomach ulcers in weaners and growing-finishing pigs submitted for autopsy at a laboratory.

Materials and Methods

All pigs (10-100 kg) sent to the Laboratory for Pig Diseases, Denmark, during a period of 13 months in 2015-16 were included in the study (max. five pigs per submission), a total of 302 pigs from 114 herds. Based on the autopsy findings, each pig was allocated to one of five diagnosis groups (estimated cause of death/ euthanasia): respiratory disease, intestinal disease, septicaemia, arthritis, and no findings. Fifty-five pigs with other causes of death (including stomach ulcers) were excluded from the study. Any ulceration and fibrosis in the oesophageal part of the stomachs was recorded.



Discussion and Conclusion

The results indicate that respiratory disease can be a contributory factor in the development of ulcers. However, the results should be interpreted with caution since the study is based on selected material which is not necessarily representative of pigs that have died in the herds.

