Vaccination PRRS in pigs: the recommendations of the Anses to limit recombination of vaccine strains

On 6th of November 2019, the Danish authorities sent a pharmacovigilance alert following the suspension of the marketing of Suvaxyn PRRS MLV vaccine, against porcine respiratory reproductive syndrome due to the occurrence of a strain resulting from recombination of vaccine strains.

In Denmark, two PRRS vaccine strains from the vaccines UNISTRIN PRRS and Suvaxyn PRRS MLV gave rise to a recombinant virus in a farm, which would then have infected the boars of a nearby breeding base. The semen of these boars, which was used in artificial insemination, would have favoured the spread of that recombinant virus in the country. The disease appeared in particular in herds with insufficient immunity against the PRRS, with clinical symptoms comparable to those caused by the virulent strains of the terrain. The disease has been confirmed in some 40 Danish farms.

The Danish authorities have suspended the marketing of the Suvaxyn PRRS MLV vaccine, authorised via the centralised procedure, and have informed the European Medicines Agency (EMA), the Member States and the European Commission thereof. The latter, in accordance with the regulatory provisions, has put into effect an arbitration procedure, in order for the Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products of the EMA to reassess the benefit-risk balance of the vaccine.

Recombination similar to that in Denmark is likely to occur in France. In order to limit recombination between vaccine strains, **ANSES recommends not to use different live PRRS vaccines in a simultaneous or consecutive manner. Fattening pigs and gilts appear to be particularly at risk as these animals often have insufficient immunity against the PRRS.**

Mis à jour le 06/02/2020

Live vaccines authorised in France against the PRRS virus

Name of the medicinal product	Name of the bearer	Active substance	Target species
MR PORCILIS PRRS	INTERVET	Porcin-live respiratory reproductive syndrome virus	Fattening pigs Breeding pig
PRRS LYOPHILISATE AND SOLVENT FOR SUSPENSION FOR INJECTION FOR PIGS	LABORATORIOS HIPRA	Porcin-live respiratory reproductive syndrome virus	Swine
INGELVAC PRRSFLEX LYOPHILISATE AND SOLVENT FOR SUSPENSION FOR INJECTION FOR PIGS	MERIAL	Porcin-live respiratory reproductive syndrome virus	Swine
REPROCYC-PRRS LYOPHILISATE AND SOLVENT FOR SUSPENSION FOR INJECTION FOR PIGS	MERIAL	Porcin-live respiratory reproductive syndrome virus	Swine
SUVAXYN PRRS MLV	ZOETIS BELGIUM	Porcin-live respiratory reproductive syndrome virus	Swine
PERSOVAC LYOPHILISATE AND SOLVENT FOR SUSPENSION FOR INJECTION FOR PIGS	CEVA-PHYLAXIA VETERINARY BIOL	Porcin-live respiratory reproductive syndrome virus	Fattening pigs

On 20th of January 2020, a marketing authorisation was delivered for the live vaccine PERSOVAC LYOPHILISATE AND SOLVENT FOR SUSPENSION FOR INJECTION FOR PIGS. The Marketing Holder is CEVA-PHYLAXIA VETERINARY BIOLOGICALS. Anses recommendations, mentioned above, keep unchanged following the addition of the MA for this new vaccine.

ANSES also recommends **an increased monitoring of any suspicious event on the site relating to this disease, including the emergence of important clinical signs of the disease in vaccinated herds.**

In the event of a suspicious event and in order to collect all the information relating to this event, the Anses should encourage her to report it via its website (pharmacovigilance-anmv.anses.fr).

Following December 2019 meeting, the EMA Committee on Veterinary Medicinal Products (CVMP) also adopted similar recommendations for the use of live attenuated PRRS vaccines: See the European Medicines Agency's press release.