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Swine Newsletter  
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## Analgesic Options for Use in Swine for Pain Treatment Following Castration and Tail Docking

### Background:

With the adoption of the Code of Practice for the care and handling of swine 2014, Canadian hog producers will be required to incorporate analgesia (pain medicine) and anesthetic product administration into their castration protocol when castrating piglets over 10 days of age. After July 1, 2016, all piglets castrated will require the administration of an analgesic to help control post-procedure pain.

Likewise, an analgesic must be administered when tail docking pigs over 7 days of age. After July 1, 2016, tail docking piglets of any age will require administration of an analgesic to help control post-procedure pain.

I suggest here that from now on you castrate and tail dock at the same time and that you do this before 7 days of age. This way you only have to use analgesia (pain medicine) once and don't have to use an anesthetic.

### Analgesics:

There is a group of drugs called NSAIDs (non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs) that can be used as analgesics for swine with a veterinarian's direction or supervision. These are prescription drugs so there needs to be a Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR). These drugs reduce fever and inflammation. They are considered to be analgesics or "pain killers".

Table 1: NSAID analgesic options

Trade Name	Ingredient	Concentration	Route	Slaughter withdrawal	Dosage mg/kg	Dosage per treatment	Dosage per piglet (2kg)
Anafen® (100mg)	Ketoprofen	100 mg	IM	7 days	3 mg/kg	1 ml/33 kg	0.06 cc
Banamine®	Flunixin meglumine	50 mg flunixin (83 mg meglumine)	IM	13 days	2.2 mg/kg	1 ml/22.5 kg	0.09
Metacam 20®	Meloxicam	20 mg	IM	5 days	0.4 mg/kg	1 ml/50 kg	0.04 cc
Pracetam®	Acetaminophen	200 mg	Oral	3 days	30 mg/kg	1 ml/6.7 kg	0.3 cc

**Brand New!**

Currently Boehringer Ingelheim have released Metacam for Swine (Meloxicam 5 mg/ml solution for injection). This is more dilute than the original 20 mg/ml solution.

Of course, the dosage of 0.4 mg/kg IM is still the same dosage. With the original product a 1kg piglet would require 0.02 ml or 1 ml of Metacam 20 mg/ml will treat 50 one kg piglets or 25 two kg piglets. 1 ml of Metacam 20 mg/ml costs about \$2.00. So the cost is about \$0.04 to \$0.08 per piglet. The delivery system is going to be a challenge. Mixing in iron comes to mind but that is Extra Label Drug use. Doing this is called "compounding" and it opens up a lot of other legal and ethical issues. Also, if mixed, will iron compromise the effectiveness of the Metacam? Quite possible!

Fortunately, this new product which is more dilute solves a lot of problems. At 5 mg/ml, 1 ml will treat 12 one kg piglets, or 6 two kg piglets. If we use 0.1 ml/piglet, then you are giving enough for a 1.25 kg piglet.

Using a 0.1 ml to 0.5 ml graduated bottle mount syringe avoids the mixing hassle and guarantees the effectiveness of the product.

No doubt there will be a lot of talk and questions about this new requirement. Glenn and I will be glad to help answer your questions.

Have a nice month,

Reg  
RR/cp