

# Post-farrowing treatment of sows with oral Meloxicam (Metacam® 15 mg / ml oral suspension for pigs) or injectable generic Meloxicam on the preweaning weight gain in subclinical MMA



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## INTRODUCTION

Mastitis-metritis-agalactia (MMA) is a complex syndrome in which hypogalactia or agalactia occurs in a clinical or subclinical way within the first hours postfarrowing<sup>1</sup>. In previous field studies, Oral Metacam® 0.4 mg / kg b. w (Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica GmbH) has proven to be effective in the treatment of MMA, allowing significant reduction of the mortality rate and improvement of the weight gain of piglets during the lactation period<sup>2,3,4,5</sup>.

The aim of this study was to compare the efficacy and convenience of a single administration of Metacam® 15 mg / ml oral suspension for pigs (Oral Metacam®) versus a generic injectable meloxicam 20 mg / ml given to sows.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The field trial was conducted on a 1,300 sow farrow-to-wean farm located in the Northeast of Spain. Severe agalactia was not observed during or after the trial. Overall, 127 sows were randomly allocated the day of farrowing (d0) to two homogeneous groups and blocked by parity, number of piglet per sow and weight at birth.

One group (n=63) was given 0.4 mg/kg b.w of Oral Metacam® (Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica GmbH) directly into the mouth on the day of farrowing. The other group (n=64) was treated with generic intramuscular meloxicam 0.4 mg / kg b. w.

The efficacy of the treatment was evaluated by suckling piglets mortality by litter, the number piglets weaned per sow and the litter weight gain.

Piglets of the same litter were weight together at day 0 and at weaning and the averages were compared. The litter was the experimental unit. Data were analyzed by ANOVA using SPSS v.15.0 software (SPSS Inc, Chicago, IL, USA).

## RESULTS

The piglet loss by litter was numerically lower in the Oral Metacam® group (2.04 vs. 2.74). Total piglet weaned per sow (figure 1) was significantly higher in the Oral Metacam® group compared to generic meloxicam group (9.92 vs. 9.19).

In addition, litters from sows treated with Metacam® showed a significantly higher weight gain compared to the litters from sows treated with generic product (31,24 kg. vs 26,05 kg).

Figure 1: Weaned piglets per sow by treatment group.

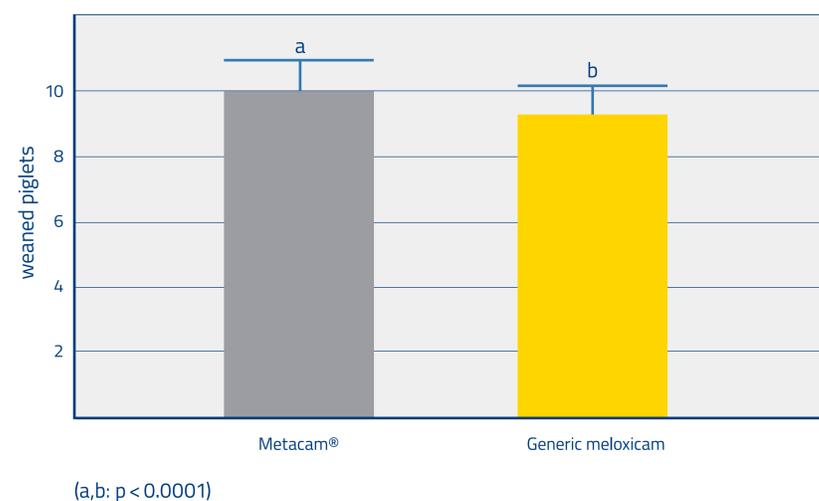
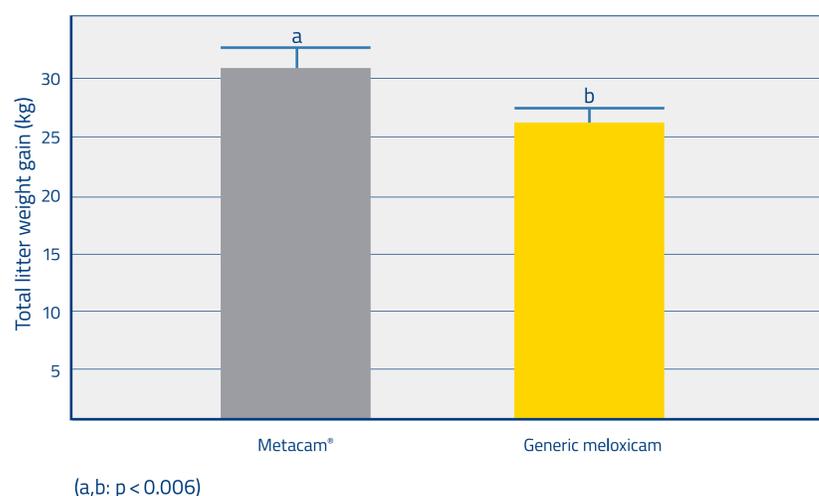


Figure 2: Total litter weight gain by treatment.



## CONCLUSION

1. Regarding efficacy, Oral Metacam® treatment in sows significantly increased the litter weight gain during lactation compared to generic meloxicam.
2. Furthermore, piglet mortality rate was reduced so the number of piglets weaned per sow was statistically increased.
3. Metacam® oral presentation reduces the number of injections during the farrowing period and result in additional benefits for sow welfare.

## REFERENCES

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