The pediatric subpopulation: development of urine and blood sampling strategies in growing piglets

Elke Gasthuys¹, Thomas van Bergen², Stijn Schauvliege², Joske Millecam¹, Siska Croubels¹, Mathias Devreese¹

¹Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Biochemistry, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University, Merelbeke, Belgium,
²Department of Surgery and Anesthesiology of Domestic Animals, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University, Merelbeke, Belgium

BACKGROUND

The piglet is considered as a valuable alternative animal model to perform preclinical pharmacokinetic (PK), pharmacodynamic (PD) and toxicity studies in the pediatric subpopulation. To be able to perform such studies, multiple blood and urine collections are required. The aim of the present study was to develop repetitive blood and urine sampling techniques in the same piglets (n = 4, 2♂/♀) aging eight days, four and eight weeks. Blood was collected either by a surgically-placed jugular vein catheter (eight days old (n = 4), four weeks old (n = 2)) or by direct venepuncture of the jugular vein (four weeks old (n = 2), eight weeks old (n = 4)). Urine was collected in the male piglets using non-invasive urine collection pouches (eight days, four weeks and eight weeks (n = 2)).

METHODS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5 days</th>
<th>6 days</th>
<th>8 days</th>
<th>9 days</th>
<th>4 weeks</th>
<th>4 weeks</th>
<th>4 weeks</th>
<th>8 weeks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrival</td>
<td>Catheterisation</td>
<td>Blood collection catheters</td>
<td>Removal</td>
<td>Catheterisation</td>
<td>Blood collection catheters/venepuncture</td>
<td>Removal</td>
<td>Blood collection venepuncture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n = 4</td>
<td>n = 4</td>
<td>n = 4</td>
<td>n = 4</td>
<td>n = 2</td>
<td>n = 2</td>
<td>n = 2</td>
<td>n = 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bacteriological screening nose and perineum

RESULTs

Bacteriological screening

MRSA Positive 1 piglet ↑

Surgery/anesthesia

No complications All piglets survived

Blood collection

12 time points, 1 mL Catheters functional for 48h Collections easily performed

Urine collection

3 collections, 1 h Non invasive technique No leakages and complications

Histological analysis

Negligible damage Remodelling

CONCLUSION

The presented urine (urine pouches, male piglets) and blood sampling (catheterization and venepuncture, male and female piglets) techniques make it possible to easily perform PK/PD studies growing piglets. Catheterization is preferred, since this is a more ethical method of collecting multiple blood samples in piglets.

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Contact information: Elke Gasthuys, elke.gasthuys@ugent.be; Mathias Devreese, mathias.devreese@ugent.be