

MELANOMA

What is the disease?

Melanoma is a form of skin cancer impacting melanocytes, which normally produce melanin to protect the skin from UV radiation. Melanoma can be either malignant or, more commonly, benign (melanocytoma). It occurs mostly in pigs with black skin, most often in Duroc and Duroc crossbreeds. Black pigmentation of the draining lymph node can also be seen.

How common is it on-farm?

In domestic pigs, melanoma is fairly uncommon and limited to blood lines based on Duroc pigs.

How is it spread?

The Duroc (and its crosses) and the Vietnamese pot-belly swine have been known to inherit a predisposition to melanoma. Other occurrences of melanoma are generally considered to be rare and sporadic.

Carcass impacts

Where melanoma in pigs has not progressed beyond the immediate draining lymph node, depending on the extent, the lesion is trimmed and condemned, or the affected carcass part is condemned. Lesions vary in size from a few millimetres to over 10 cm in diameter.

Treatment

Melanoma in pigs has frequently been seen to self-regress. In breeds used for researching melanoma, removal of the infected tissue has been the only successful method of treatment to date.

Prevention

Spontaneous melanoma is not able to be prevented, however, inherited melanoma can be prevented by not breeding with any animals found to have melanoma.



Source: MINTRAC



Source: APL