

## AN OBSERVATION ON GASTRIC ULCERATION IN PORKERS

SIR: Gastric ulceration affecting the pars oesophagea is a common condition in pigs sometimes causing death as a result of acute haemorrhage (Curtin *et al.*, 1963). Abattoir surveys conducted in many parts of the world revealed the prevalence of the gastric ulceration to vary between five and 100 percent (O'Brien, 1981). In Malaysia to our knowledge no such studies have been done. We now report our observation on gastric ulceration in porkers slaughtered at Shah Alam Abattoir, Selangor.

One hundred stomachs of freshly slaughtered porkers were collected at random during weekly visits from May to October 1986. The porkers were about six months old and had come from many farms in Selangor and Negeri Sembilan. The pars oesophagea of each stomach was examined carefully for presence of ulcers. The stomachs were otherwise normal.

Fifteen stomachs (15%) had ulcers in the pars oesophagea. The ulcers were irregular in shape and depth and varied in size from a few to several centimetres in diameter. They were present either as a single focus or multiple foci and in different stages of development. Some of the foci had coalesced while a few were deep and haemorrhagic. Most ulcers had borders thickened with fibrous tissue.

The prevalence of gastric ulceration at 15 percent in our observation is low compared with that observed in other countries. In one study in Japan, all 73 slaughtered pigs examined had gastric ulcers in different stages of development (Ito *et al.*, 1974) while in a similar study in Brazil, 77.6 percent of 3113 pigs had the condition (Bivin *et al.*, 1974).

Swine of either sex and any breed from two months of age may be affected with gastric ulcers (O'Brien, 1981). The pathogenesis is not fully understood. Many factors play a role such as genetic predisposition, stress of confinement, overcrowding, transportation, changes in environment and nutrition, infection and toxins (O'Brien, 1981). The incidence of the ulcer was found to be significantly higher in swine selected for low backfat after four to five generations (Grondalen and Vangen, 1974) and in those fed processed and pelleted ration (Dobson *et al.*, 1978).

The significance of gastric ulcers under the Malaysian situation is uncertain. Fatal cases of haemorrhagic gastric ulceration in sows have, however, been observed (A.R. Sheikh-Omar, unpublished data). This merits further investigation.

SHEIKH-OMAR, A.R.,<sup>1</sup> ABDULLAH, M.N.,<sup>1</sup> and MOHNA<sup>2</sup> S.S.

<sup>1</sup>*Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science,  
Universiti Pertanian Malaysia,  
43400 Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia.*

<sup>2</sup>*Rumah Sembelih Shah Alam,  
40000 Shah Alam,  
Selangor, Malaysia.*

### REFERENCES

- BIVIN, W.S., LOMBARDO, B.D.C., SALLES, D.B.C. and NOGUEIRA, D.S.M. (1974). Gastric ulcers in Brazilian swine. *J. Am. Vet. Med. Assoc.* 164: 405-407.
- CURTIN, T.M., GOETSCH, G.D. and HOLLAND BECK, R. (1963). Clinical and pathological characterization of esophagogastric ulcers in swine. *J. Am. Vet. Med. Assoc.* 143: 854-860.

- DOBSON, D.J., DAVIES, R.R. and CARGILL, C.F. (1978). Ulcerations of the pars oesophagea. *Aust. Vet. J.* 54: 601-602.
- GRONDALEN, T. and VANGEN, O. (1974). Gastric ulcers in pigs selected for lameness and fatness. *Nord. Vet. Med.* 26: 50-53.
- ITO, T., MIURA, S. and TANIMURA, J. (1974). Pathological studies on proventricular ulcer in swine. *Jpn. J. Vet. Sci.* 36: 263-272.
- O'BRIEN, J.J. (1981). Gastric ulcer. In: Diseases of Swine. Leman, A.D. *et al.* (Ed.), 5th ed., p632-646. Iowa State University Press, Ames.