



# discoveries

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- **In a multi-site study, commercial feeder pigs with SRD were treated with saline or one dose of Draxxin®, a long-acting macrolide antimicrobial.**
- **Treated pigs had lower mortality, significantly better treatment success ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) and significantly fewer total lungs with lesions ( $p = 0.0096$ ) compared to untreated pigs.**
- **The results demonstrate that pork producers and their veterinarians can help control SRD and reduce losses with one dose of Draxxin.**

## Multi-site study demonstrates efficacy of Draxxin® for SRD

**A** multi-site study of pigs with swine respiratory disease (SRD) demonstrates that one dose of Draxxin® (tulathromycin) not only lowers mortality, it can significantly improve treatment success and reduce total lung lesions.<sup>1</sup>

Draxxin is indicated for treatment as well as control of key pathogens associated with SRD. The multi-site study was conducted in Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota and Saskatchewan, Canada. It included 455 mixed-sex commercial feeder pigs at farms with a history of SRD. When 15% of pigs in a pen met the criteria for SRD, they were randomly assigned to receive either one 2.5 ml/kg bodyweight intramuscular dose of saline as a control or Draxxin.

Draxxin is a rapidly absorbed antimicrobial that is extensively distributed in lung tissue and retained for a long duration,<sup>2</sup> says Eva Jablonski, DVM, senior technical services veterinarian, Zoetis.

“To meet the criteria for SRD, pigs had respiratory and depression scores of  $\geq 2$  on a 0-to-3 scale and rectal temperatures of  $\geq 104^\circ\text{F}$ ,” says Jablonski, noting that pigs from the saline and Draxxin groups were commingled. Treatment was considered successful if, by study-day 7, the animal was alive, had respiratory and depression scores  $\leq 1$  and a rectal temperature  $< 104^\circ\text{F}$  ( $40^\circ\text{C}$ ).

### Results

Investigators observed the pigs twice daily to monitor their general health and clinically evaluated them on study-day 7. Nearly 60% of pigs that received Draxxin were successfully

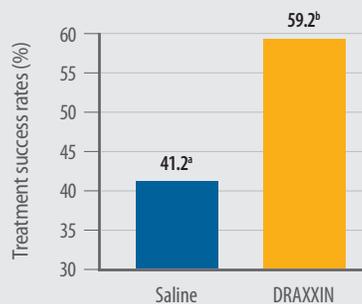
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“...pigs had respiratory and depression scores of  $\geq 2$  on a 0-to-3 scale and rectal temperatures of  $\geq 104^\circ\text{F}$ .”

EVA JABLONSKI, DVM

Figure 1. Treatment success rate



<sup>ab</sup> Percentages with different superscripts differ significantly ( $p \leq 0.05$ )

Figure 2. Mortality rate

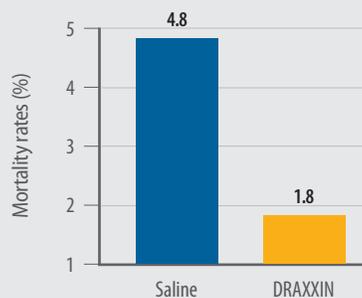
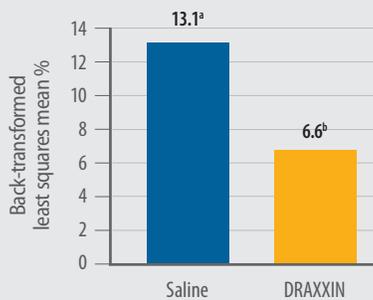


Figure 3. Percentage of total lungs with lesions



<sup>ab</sup> Percentages with different superscripts differ significantly ( $p = 0.096$ )

treated compared to 41% in the saline group (Figure 1), and the results were significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ). Mortality was less in the Draxxin group (Figure 2). In addition, the percentage of total lungs with lesions was significantly lower in treated pigs — 6.6% compared to more than 13% in controls ( $p = 0.096$ ), she says (Figure 3).

Lung sampling of pigs that died before the study started and at the end of the study revealed multiple SRD pathogens. *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae* was most often found, followed by *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*, *Pasteurella multocida*, *Haemophilus parasuis* and *Bordetella bronchiseptica*, Jablonski says.

“The results demonstrate that Draxxin can help producers control respiratory disease and cut losses when SRD is already present in a herd,” she says.

*continued*

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**Important Safety Information for Swine:** Withdraw Draxxin/Draxxin 25 five (5) days prior to slaughter in swine. Do not use in animals known to be hypersensitive to the product. See the full Prescribing Information attached.

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<sup>1</sup> Data on file, Study Report No. 1123C-60-07-279, Zoetis LLC.

<sup>2</sup> Benchaoui HA, et al. Pharmacokinetics and lung tissue concentrations of tulathromycin in swine. *J Vet Pharmacol Ther.* 2004;27:203-210.

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## discoveries

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“The results demonstrate that Draxxin can help producers control respiratory disease and cut losses when SRD is already present in a herd.”

EVA JABLONSKI, DVM  
ZOETIS



**Antibiotic**  
100 mg of tulathromycin/mL

For use in swine.

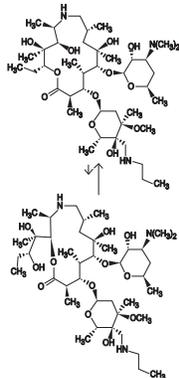
**CAUTION:** Federal (USA) law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

**DESCRIPTION**

DRAXXIN Injectable Solution is a ready-to-use sterile macrolide preparation containing tulathromycin, a semi-synthetic macrolide antibiotic of the subclass triamillide. Each mL of DRAXXIN contains 100 mg of tulathromycin, 500 mg propylene glycol, 19.2 mg citric acid and 5 mg monothioglycerol. Sodium hydroxide or hydrochloric acid may be added to adjust pH.

DRAXXIN consists of an equilibrated mixture of two isomeric forms of tulathromycin in a 9:1 ratio. Structures of the isomers are shown below.

Figure 1.



The chemical names of the isomers are (2R,3S,4R,5R,8R,10R,11R,12S,13S,14R)-13-[[2,6-dideoxy-3-C-methyl-3-O-methyl-4-C-[(propylamino)methyl]-α-L-ribo-hexopyrano-syl]oxy]-2-ethyl-3,4,10-trihydroxy-3,5,8,10,12,14-hexamethyl-11-[[3,4,6-trideoxy-3-(dimethylamino)-β-D-xylo-hexopyranosyl]-oxy]-1-oxa-6-azacyclotridecan-15-one and (2R,3R,6R,8R,9R,10S,11S,12R)-11-[[2,6-dideoxy-3-C-methyl-3-O-methyl-4-C-[(propylamino)methyl]-α-L-ribo-hexopyrano-syl]oxy]-2-[(1R,2R)-1,2-dihydroxy-1-methylbutyl]-8-hydroxy-3,6,8,10,12-pentamethyl-9-[[3,4,6-trideoxy-3-(dimethylamino)-β-D-xylo-hexopyranosyl]oxy]-1-oxa-4-azacyclotridecan-13-one, respectively.

**INDICATIONS**

**Swine**  
DRAXXIN Injectable Solution is indicated for the treatment of swine respiratory disease (SRD) associated with *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae*, *Pasteurella multocida*, *Bordetella bronchiseptica*, *Haemophilus parasuis*, and *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*; and for the control of SRD associated with *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae*, *Pasteurella multocida*, and *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* in groups of pigs where SRD has been diagnosed.

**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**Swine**  
Inject intramuscularly as a single dose in the neck at a dosage of 2.5 mg/kg (0.25 mL/22 lb) BW. Do not inject more than 2.5 mL per injection site.

**Table 21.** DRAXXIN Swine Dosing Guide

Animal Weight (Pounds)	Dose Volume (mL)
15	0.2
30	0.3
50	0.6
70	0.8
90	1.0
110	1.3
130	1.5
150	1.7
170	1.9
190	2.2
210	2.4
230	2.6
250	2.8
270	3.1
290	3.3

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**

The use of DRAXXIN Injectable Solution is contraindicated in animals previously found to be hypersensitive to the drug.

**WARNINGS**

**FOR USE IN ANIMALS ONLY.**  
**NOT FOR HUMAN USE.**  
**KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.**  
**NOT FOR USE IN CHICKENS OR TURKEYS.**

**RESIDUE WARNINGS**

**Swine**  
Swine intended for human consumption must not be slaughtered within 5 days from the last treatment.

**PRECAUTIONS**

**Swine**  
The effects of DRAXXIN on porcine reproductive performance, pregnancy, and lactation have not been determined. Intramuscular injection can cause a transient local tissue reaction that may result in trim loss of edible tissue at slaughter.

**ADVERSE REACTIONS**

**Swine**  
In one field study, one out of 40 pigs treated with DRAXXIN at 2.5 mg/kg BW exhibited mild salivation that resolved in less than four hours.

**POST APPROVAL EXPERIENCE**

The following adverse events are based on post approval adverse drug experience reporting. Not all adverse events are reported to the FDA CVM. It is not always possible to reliably estimate the adverse event frequency or establish a causal relationship to product exposure using these data. For a complete listing of adverse reactions for DRAXXIN (tulathromycin injection) Injectable Solution reported to the CVM see: <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary>.

**CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**

At physiological pH, tulathromycin (a weak base) is approximately 50 times more soluble in hydrophilic than hydrophobic media. This solubility profile is consistent with the extracellular pathogen activity typically associated with the macrolides.<sup>1</sup> Markedly higher tulathromycin concentrations are observed in the lungs as compared to the plasma. The extent to which lung concentrations represent free (active) drug was not examined. Therefore, the clinical relevance of these elevated lung concentrations is undetermined.

Although the relationship between tulathromycin and the characteristics of its antimicrobial effects has not been characterized, as a class, macrolides tend to be primarily bacteriostatic, but may be bactericidal against some pathogens.<sup>2</sup> They also tend to exhibit concentration independent killing; the rate of bacterial eradication does not change once serum drug concentrations reach 2 to 3 times the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of the targeted pathogen. Under these conditions, the time that serum concentrations remain above the MIC becomes the major determinant of antimicrobial activity. Macrolides also exhibit a post-antibiotic effect (PAE), the duration of which tends to be both drug and pathogen dependent. In general, by increasing the macrolide concentration and the exposure time, the PAE will increase to some maximal duration. Of the two variables, concentration and exposure time, drug concentration tends to be the most powerful determinant of the duration of PAE.

Tulathromycin is eliminated from the body primarily unchanged via biliary excretion.

<sup>1</sup> Carbon, C. 1998. *Pharmacodynamics of Macrolides, Azalides, and Streptogramins: Effect on Extracellular Pathogens. Clin. Infect. Dis., 27:28-32.*

<sup>2</sup> Nightingale, C.J. 1997. *Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics of Newer Macrolides. Pediatr. Infect. Dis. J., 16:438-443.*

**Swine**

Following intramuscular administration to feeder pigs at a dosage of 2.5 mg/kg BW, tulathromycin is completely and rapidly absorbed (T<sub>max</sub> ~0.25 hour). Subsequently, the drug rapidly distributes into body tissues, achieving a volume of distribution exceeding 15 L/kg. The free drug is rapidly cleared from the systemic circulation (CL<sub>systemic</sub> = 187 mL/hr/kg). However, it has a long terminal elimination half-life (60 to 90 hours) owing to its extensive volume of distribution. Although pulmonary tulathromycin concentrations are substantially higher than concentrations observed in the plasma, the clinical significance of these findings is undetermined. There are no gender differences in swine tulathromycin pharmacokinetics.

**MICROBIOLOGY**

**Swine**

*In vitro* activity of tulathromycin has been demonstrated against *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae*, *Pasteurella multocida*, *Bordetella bronchiseptica*, *Haemophilus parasuis*, and *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*.

The MICs of tulathromycin against indicated SRD pathogens were determined using methods recommended by the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI, M31-A and M31-A3). MICs for *Haemophilus parasuis* were determined using Veterinary Fastidious Medium and were incubated up to 48 hours at 35 to 37°C in a CO<sub>2</sub>-enriched atmosphere. All MIC values were determined using the 9:1 isomer ratio of this compound. Isolates obtained in 2000 and 2002 were from lung samples from saline-treated pigs and non-treated sentinel pigs enrolled in Treatment of SRD field studies in the U.S. and Canada. Isolates obtained in 2007 and 2008 were from lung samples from saline-treated and DRAXXIN-treated pigs enrolled in the Control of SRD field study in the U.S. and Canada. The results are shown in Table 4.

**Table 4.** Tulathromycin minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) values\* for indicated pathogens isolated from field studies evaluating SRD in the U.S. and Canada.

Indicated pathogen	Date isolated	No. of isolates	MIC <sub>50</sub> ** (µg/mL)	MIC <sub>90</sub> ** (µg/mL)	MIC range (µg/mL)
<i>Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae</i>	2000-2002	135	16	32	16 to 32
	2007-2008	88	16	16	4 to 32
<i>Haemophilus parasuis</i>	2000-2002	31	1	2	0.25 to > 64
<i>Pasteurella multocida</i>	2000-2002	55	1	2	0.5 to > 64
	2007-2008	40	1	2	≤ 0.03 to 2
<i>Bordetella bronchiseptica</i>	2000-2002	42	4	8	2 to 8

\* The correlation between *in vitro* susceptibility data and clinical effectiveness is unknown.

\*\* The lowest MIC to encompass 50% and 90% of the most susceptible isolates, respectively.

**EFFECTIVENESS**

**Swine**

In a multi-location field study to evaluate the treatment of naturally occurring SRD, 266 pigs were treated with DRAXXIN. Responses to treatment were compared to saline-treated controls. Success was defined as a pig with normal attitude, normal respiration, and rectal temperature of < 104°F on Day 7. The treatment success rate was significantly greater (P ≤ 0.05) in DRAXXIN-treated pigs (70.5%) compared to saline-treated pigs (46.1%). *M. hyopneumoniae* was isolated from 106 saline-treated and non-treated sentinel pigs in this study.

Two induced infection model studies were conducted to confirm the effectiveness of DRAXXIN against *M. hyopneumoniae*. Ten days after inoculation intranasally and intratracheally with a field strain of *M. hyopneumoniae*, 144 pigs were treated with either DRAXXIN (2.5 mg/kg BW) intramuscularly or an equivalent volume of saline. Pigs were euthanized and necropsied 10 days post-treatment. The mean percentage of gross pneumonic lung lesions was statistically significantly lower (P < 0.0001) for DRAXXIN-treated pigs than for saline-treated pigs in both studies (8.52% vs. 23.62% and 11.31% vs. 26.42%).

The effectiveness of DRAXXIN for the control of SRD was evaluated in a multi-location natural infection field study. When at least 15% of the study candidates showed clinical signs of SRD, all pigs were enrolled and treated with DRAXXIN (226 pigs) or saline (227 pigs). Responses to treatment were evaluated on Day 7. Success was defined as a pig with normal attitude, normal respiration, and rectal temperature of < 104°F. The treatment success rate was significantly greater (P < 0.05) in DRAXXIN-treated pigs compared to saline-treated pigs (59.2% vs. 41.2%).

**ANIMAL SAFETY**

**Swine**

Safety studies were conducted in pigs receiving a single intramuscular dose of 25 mg/kg BW, or 3 weekly intramuscular doses of 2.5, 7.5, or 12.5 mg/kg BW. In all groups, transient indications of pain after injection were seen, including restlessness and excessive vocalization. Tremors occurred briefly in one animal receiving 7.5 mg/kg BW. Discoloration and edema of injection site tissues and corresponding histopathologic changes were seen in animals at all dosages and resolved over time. No other drug-related lesions were observed macroscopically or microscopically.

**STORAGE CONDITIONS**

Store below 25°C (77°F), with excursions up to 40°C (104°F). Use this product within 45 days of the first puncture and puncture a maximum of 20 times. If more than 20 punctures are anticipated, the use of automatic injection equipment of a repeater syringe is recommended. When using a draw-off spike or needle with bore diameter larger than 16 gauge, discard any product remaining in the vial immediately after use.

**HOW SUPPLIED**

DRAXXIN Injectable Solution is available in the following package sizes:  
50 mL vial  
100 mL vial  
250 mL vial  
500 mL vial

NADA 141-244, Approved by FDA



Distributed by:  
Zoetis Inc.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

To report a suspected adverse reaction or to request a safety data sheet call 1-888-963-8471. For additional information about adverse drug experience reporting for animal drugs, contact FDA at 1-888-FDA-VETS or online at <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth>.

For additional DRAXXIN product information call: 1-888-DRAXXIN or go to [www.DRAXXIN.com](http://www.DRAXXIN.com)

