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Suvaxyn PRRS MLV (*porcine respiratory and reproductive syndrome (PRRS) virus vaccine, live*)

An overview of Suvaxyn PRRS MLV and why it is authorised in the EU

What is Suvaxyn PRRS MLV and what is it used for?

Suvaxyn PRRS MLV is a veterinary vaccine used to protect pigs against porcine respiratory and reproductive syndrome (PRRS). This viral disease of pigs may result in lowered farrowing (birth) rates, increase in abortions, stillborn, mummified as well as weak live born piglets and deaths. There may also be disease of the airways which can lead to high death rates in suckling and weaned pigs.

Suvaxyn PRRS MLV contains a modified strain of live PRRS virus, strain 96V198, that has been weakened so that it does not cause disease.

How is Suvaxyn PRRS MLV used?

Suvaxyn PRRS MLV is available as lyophilisate (a freeze-dried pellet) and solvent to make a suspension for injection and can only be obtained with a prescription. Suvaxyn PRRS MLV is given as a single injection from 1 day of age to pigs for fattening. Gilts (female pigs that have not yet had piglets) and sows (female pigs that have had piglets) are given a single injection before introduction into the sow herd, about 4 weeks before breeding, and a booster injection every 6 months. Mass vaccination can take place in herds in which presence of European PRRS virus is known. Protection starts to be effective 21 days after vaccination and lasts for 26 weeks after vaccination.

For further information about using Suvaxyn PRRS MLV, see the package leaflet or contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

How does Suvaxyn PRRS MLV work?

Suvaxyn PRRS MLV is a vaccine. Vaccines work by ‘teaching’ the immune system (the body’s natural

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defences) how to defend itself against a disease. Suvaxyn PRRS MLV contains a weakened strain of PRRS virus. When a pig is given the vaccine, the pig's immune system recognises the virus as 'foreign' and makes antibodies against it. In the future, the immune system will be able to react against the virus more quickly. This will help protect the pig against the disease.

What benefits of Suvaxyn PRRS MLV have been shown in studies?

The effectiveness of Suvaxyn PRRS MLV was supported by laboratory studies. A study in piglets showed the vaccine starts to be effective 21 days after vaccination and four studies in piglets showed protection lasts up to 26 weeks. Two studies were conducted in female pigs, one which showed that single vaccination of female pigs 10 to 11 weeks before mating protected them against disease when exposed to the virus 26 weeks after vaccination. The second study in sows showed that a booster vaccination 6 months after the initial vaccination, with mating performed 4 months after the second vaccination, gave protection for 7 months.

What are the risks associated with Suvaxyn PRRS MLV?

The most common side effects with Suvaxyn PRRS MLV are a short lived increase in body temperature (0.5-0.8 °C on average), which may affect more than 1 in 10 pigs within 4 days of vaccination, and local reactions in the form of swellings which resolve without treatment in 5 to 9 days.

Suvaxyn PRRS MLV must not be used in herds where European PRRS virus has not been detected by reliable diagnostic methods.

In pregnant gilts and sows with no prior exposure to PRRS virus, Suvaxyn PRRS MLV must not be used in the second half of pregnancy because the virus in the vaccine may cross the placenta and affect the birth rate. Suvaxyn PRRS MLV must also not be used in boars producing semen, as PRRS virus can be shed in semen.

For the full list of all side effects and restrictions with Suvaxyn PRRS MLV, see the package leaflet.

What are the precautions for the person who gives the medicine or comes into contact with the animal?

No special precautions are required.

What is the withdrawal period in food-producing animals?

The withdrawal period is the time required after administration of a medicine before an animal can be slaughtered and the meat used for human consumption.

The withdrawal period for meat from pigs treated with Suvaxyn PRRS MLV is 'zero' days, which means there is no mandatory waiting time.

Why is Suvaxyn PRRS MLV authorised in the EU?

The European Medicines Agency decided that Suvaxyn PRRS MLV's benefits are greater than its risks and it can be authorised for use in the EU.

Other information about Suvaxyn PRRS MLV

Suvaxyn PRRS MLV received a marketing authorisation valid throughout the EU on 24 August 2017.

Further information on Suvaxyn PRRS MLV can be found on the Agency's website: ema.europa.eu/medicines/veterinary/EPAR/suvaxyn-prrs-mlv.

This overview was last updated in April 2019.