

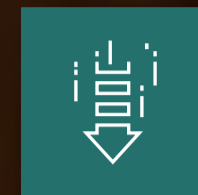
# Glässer's disease

Caused by *Glaesserella parasuis* (many different serotypes being part of the natural flora of pig's respiratory system).

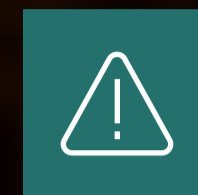
**Clinical disease is most prevalent in pigs 4 to 8 weeks of age.**

Sometimes it can be present in outbreaks in lactating piglets.

Later outbreaks can result in:



reduced growth



high morbidity



rejection of carcasses at slaughter



## Economic impact

Glässer's disease is thought to add

**\$8.60 to production costs per pig.**



**Infected pigs can experience a loss of 50 grams per day.<sup>1</sup>**



**Cost per pig  
\$8.60**



**Weight loss  
50g / day**

<sup>1</sup>Costa-Hurtado, M. Update on Glässer's disease: How to control the disease under restrictive use of antimicrobials. *Vet Microbiol.* Vol. 242, March 2020.



## Prevalence

Glässer's disease is a significant disease, **present in all the major swine-producing countries**, even in modern farms with good health program.

**Exact % of prevalence is difficult to determine.**

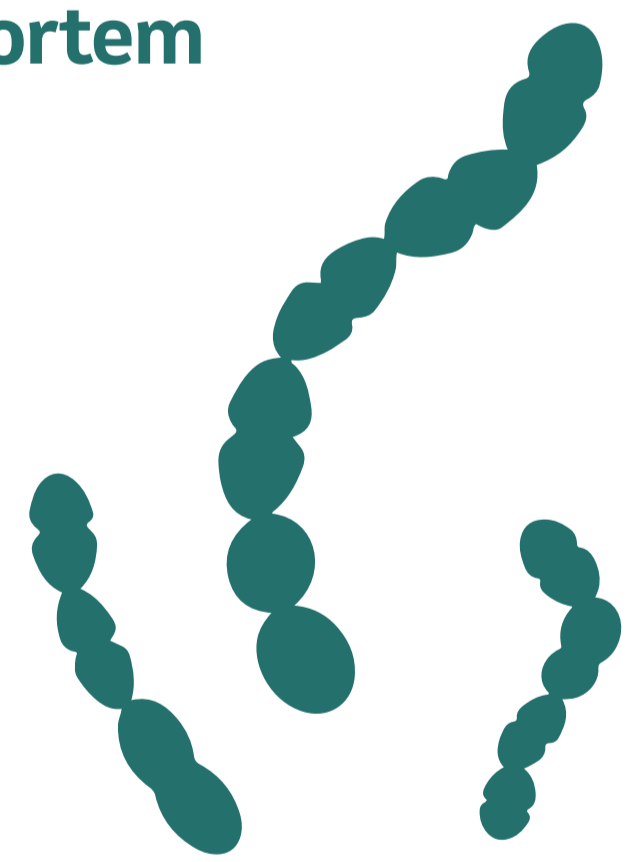


## Diagnosis

**It has to be based on clinical observations and post mortem examinations.**

**Affected pigs may exhibit a range of symptoms, including:**

- Collapse and labored breathing.
- Skin discoloration.
- Arthritis and obvious joint swelling.
- Coughing.
- Squealing piglets while handling.
- Nervous signs including meningitis in weaners and growers.



It also causes **fever**, and **loss of appetite** in individual pigs. In **acute cases**, pigs will be found **dead**, often with **discoloration to the ears, abdomen and legs**. Sometimes, the disease will only be **identified in the slaughterhouse**.



## Treatment and prevention

Animals must be treated quickly, mainly when meningitis cases are present, with penicillin or other antibiotics.

**Vaccination of sows before farrowing transfers immunity to her piglets.**

Reducing environmental stress is also important in the prevention of Glässer's disease.