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## Iberian pigs: more than excellent ham!

*Jordi Estellé based on reviews by 2 anonymous reviewers*

A recommendation of:

J. M. Rodríguez-López, M. Lachica, L. González-Valero, I. Fernández-Fígares. **Determining insulin sensitivity from glucose tolerance tests in Iberian and Landrace pigs (2020)**, *bioRxiv 2019.12.20.884056*, ver. 3 peer-reviewed and recommended by PCI Animal Science. [10.1101/2019.12.20.884056](https://doi.org/10.1101/2019.12.20.884056)

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Iberian pigs represent a treasured resource that allows the maintenance of their “montanera” traditional breeding system and, thus, contributes to the socioeconomic sustainability of the rural areas in the south-western regions of Iberian Peninsula. While the excellence of Iberian meat products is widely recognized, the idea of using Iberian pigs as biomedical models is currently emerging. Interestingly, due to the particular fatty acid metabolism of this porcine breed, Iberian pigs have been proposed as models for type 2 diabetes (Torres-Rovira et al. 2012) or obesity-related renal disease (Rodríguez et al. 2020).

In the present manuscript, Rodríguez-López et al. provide further insights on the particularities of “obese” Iberian pigs by comparing their insulin sensitivity in a glucose tolerance test with that of commercial “lean” Landrace pigs. The authors compared four Iberian pigs with five Landrace pigs in an intense time-series following an intra-arterial glucose tolerance test and measuring insulin, glucose, lactate, triglycerides, cholesterol, creatinine, albumin and urea plasma levels. Several of these parameters showed significant differences between both breeds, with some of them being compatible with an early stage of insulin resistance in Iberian pigs. These results are relevant from an animal production perspective, but provide also further evidence for considering the Iberian pigs as a suitable biomedical model for obesity-related disorders.

### References

- [1] Torres-Rovira, L., Astiz, S., Caro, A., Lopez-Bote, C., Ovilo, C., Pallares, P., Perez-Solana, M. L., Sanchez-Sanchez, R., & Gonzalez-Bulnes, A. (2012). Diet-induced swine model with obesity/leptin resistance for the study of metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes. *The Scientific World Journal*, 510149. <https://doi.org/10.1100/2012/510149>
- [2] Rodríguez, R. R., González-Bulnes, A., Garcia-Contreras, C., Elena Rodriguez-Rodriguez, A., Astiz, S., Vazquez-Gomez, M., Luis Pesantez, J., Isabel, B., Salido-Ruiz, E., González, J., Donate Correa, J., Luis-Lima, S., & Porrini, E. (2020). The Iberian pig fed with

high-fat diet: a model of renal disease in obesity and metabolic syndrome. International journal of obesity, 44(2), 457–465. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41366-019-0434-9> "

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## Revision round #1

2020-04-24

Dear authors,

We thank you for submitting your pre-print to the PCI in Animal Science. Given this COVID scenario new to all of us, it has taken a bit longer to get all the process done, but now I'm in the situation of providing feedback for your submission.

You will find attached the comments and suggestions of two reviewers that are expert in the field. Both of them find your work of merit and think that it is interesting, I agree. They also provide indications on how to improve the presentation and discussion of the results and, in addition, they raise a few questions that need some clarification. Thus, my opinion is that your preprint needs a revision before being able to recommend it. After you address their suggestions and submit a new preprint for evaluation, it will be my pleasure to accept it and write a nice recommendation for your manuscript in the PCI webpage.

Kindest regards, Jordi Estellé

Preprint DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2019.12.20.884056>

*Reviewed by anonymous reviewer, 2020-03-27 17:55*

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*Reviewed by anonymous reviewer, 2020-03-08 23:21*

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***Author's reply:***

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