Abstract

Benue state is major producer of pigs and houses over 20% of the Nigerian pig population (Umeh et al., 2015; Asambe et al., 2019). Disease conditions such as valvular endocarditis affects the production of these animals. In developed countries of the world, valvular endocarditis has been the focal point of study because of the protocol of compulsory opening of the hearts of pigs at slaughter.

In Nigeria there is no such protocol of slaughter, in fact the condition is either not recognised at slaughter or even mis-diagnosed at clinical stage. There is no information regarding endocarditis among swine.

The study was aimed at determining the prevalence of bacteria endocarditis among slaughter pigs in Makurdi, also to determine the prevalence ratio among the various breeds, sex, age and weight of the pigs at the slaughter slabs and to determine other causes of the condition aside bacteria, thereby achieving early diagnoses and preventing undiagnosed deaths from this condition.

A total of 1000 pigs was randomly selected for a period of 4months, 20 hearts were examined daily, out of which those with suspected lesion (swollen) were collected for bacteria culture and identification.

From multistage samples collected valvular endocarditis had a prevalence of 2.1% Causes of the endocarditis were;larva migrants with prevalence of 14.2%

Heart worms (metastrongylus apri,) had prevalence of 9.25%, Bacteria (Streptococcus Spp, Staphylococcus Spp, E. coli) Had a prevalence of

52.38%

Trauma (slaughter method) with prevalence of 23.8%.

The causes of endocarditis are heart worms, larva migrants, bacteria and trauma, with bacteria having the highest prevalence rate of 52.38%. This agrees with other researchers such as (Henrick et al, 2010) who opined that bacteria are the most common cause of endocarditis in pigs. There are no significances to age, sex, as the condition affects all ages (Henrick et al.,2010) all sex, both male and female. A protocol for slaughter of pigs is highly recommended in Makurdi slaughter slab.