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The use of mineral oil during in vitro maturation, fertilization and embryo culture does not impair the developmental competence of pig oocytes

ANIMAL REPRODUCTION

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

| 1 | Revised |
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| 15 | ABSTRACT |
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| 17 | This study evaluated the effects of mineral oil overlay during maturation, fertilization |
| 18 | and embryo culture on the timing of nuclear maturation, the progesterone concentrations |
| 19 | in the maturation medium and the subsequent developmental competence of the oocyte. |
| 20 | The results from experiment 1 showed that under the typical humidity of laboratory |
| 21 | incubators (95-97%), the culture media osmolality increased in the absence of oil |
| 22 | overlay. For this reason, in experiment 2, maturation, fertilization and embryo culture |
| 23 | media were incubated with either an oil cover (MO group) or a microenvironment |
| 24 | system for maximum humidity (HM group). Under these conditions, the media |
| 25 | osmolality was maintained below 300 mOsm/kg. A portion of oocytes (n = 1,414; four |

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