Pneumonia is a major cause of death in feeder pigs and pneumatic lesions are found in a significant proportion of slaughtered pigs. A report from Taiwan ROC, 27.3% of 539 growing pigs were caused by respiratory diseases, while 41.7% of 614 fattening pigs were caused by respiratory diseases. In an analysis of lesions in pigs reported in Taiwan ROC, 87% of the 100 pneumatic lungs collected from slaughtered meat pigs had tracheitis and microscopically lesions typical of Mycoplasma pneumonia (M). Tilmacin is a broad-spectrum antibiotic that is active against a number of respiratory pathogens that cause disease in livestock, but is particularly active against Mycoplasma in vivo and in vitro and pneumonia pathology. This study was intended to evaluate the efficacy of Tilmacin in treating pigs for treatment of bacterial pneumonia in Taiwan ROC settings.

About mid April of 1981, a case of pneumonia in a group of pigs was reported and a further examination was performed on the pigs in the affected group. On the basis of the results of the examination, the pigs were divided into four groups, each consisting of 25 pigs. The pigs in group 1 were treated with Tilmacin at a dosage of 2.5 mg/kg per day for 3 days. The pigs in group 2 were treated with Tilmacin at a dosage of 2.5 mg/kg per day for 5 days. The pigs in group 3 were treated with Tilmacin at a dosage of 2.5 mg/kg per day for 7 days. The pigs in group 4 were not treated.

Results:
A total of 29 pneumatic lungs (one for each pig) were collected for histological examination. Of the 29 lungs, 14 with typical lesions of pneumonia were selected for isolation of Mycoplasma pneumoniae. The remaining 15 pigs with other lesions included pneumonia, tracheitis, bronchitis, and emphysema. These pigs were then placed on Tilmacin at a dosage of 2.5 mg/kg per day for 3 days.

Conclusion:
The present study demonstrated the safety of Tilmacin in treating pigs for bacterial pneumonia. This treatment showed a significant improvement in clinical signs and decreased the incidence of mortality. It is important to note that further studies are needed to confirm these findings.