

# Pacific GeneTech sees positive findings for inactivated Eimeria poultry vaccine

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Hong Kong-based animal health firm Pacific GeneTech (PGT) has gained promising results in a recent trial for its inactivated recombinant Eimeria vaccine.



The trial compared PGT's vaccine to Merial's attenuated live oocyst vaccine Hatchpack, against three species of Eimeria: *E acervulina*, *E maxima* and *E tenella*.

The study used lesion scores, weight gain, oocysts shed per gram (OPGs) and mortality as endpoints.

PGT's inactivated vaccine was boosted by its [Hercules adjuvant delivery system](#) and then orally administered to poultry. Findings showed PGT's inactivated vaccine performed favorably against all three *Eimeria* species and was comparable with the live oocyst commercial vaccine.

There are currently no inactivated *Eimeria* vaccines on the market. Although live oocyst vaccines are available, PGT said they are among the most expensive vaccines for poultry.

Cindy Tsang, director of business development at PGT, told *Animal Pharm*: "We believe this is a gamechanger for the industry because of the increasing restrictions on the use of coccidostats in many countries globally, that will drive the need for a cost-effective vaccine to control coccidiosis.

"However, the live oocyst vaccines currently available are often too costly to justify for use in broiler chickens – they are mostly used in higher value birds such as layers and breeders. Our inactivated vaccine will open an opportunity for use in the lower price broiler market.

"Additionally, live oocyst vaccines are known for morbidity problems and a consequent reduction in body weight gain in chickens."

PGT's vaccine platform is based on conserved antigens that are cross-protective. Therefore, the firm believes the vaccine is able to protect against more species of *Eimeria* than the three aforementioned.

The recent study was conducted at Southern Research Poultry in the US with Dr Greg Mathis, a leading expert on *Eimeria*.