

The work by Kasper et al is an attempt to predict body composition in growing pigs using dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry.

### **Major comments**

- It is difficult to extract the original information from the manuscript since the subject is not new and very little advanced data is supplied by this work. Furthermore, recognised pitfalls associated with DEXA measurements, while extensively published, are not taken into account. Finally, critical papers e.g. Mitchell J.Anim.Sci, 1998, 76:2392-2398 are not even cited.
- Data about anesthesia and pre-anesthesia are not given
- Data about DEXA calibration and quality control are missing altogether
- The methods for ROI calculation are missing while they are essential for the accuracy of DEXA (the word ROI is even not present in the manuscript)
- The influence of body position (for longitudinal studies) is not investigated
- The influence of the delay between the meal and the imaging is not investigated while known to be of significant importance in body composition analysis at least in human.

### **Minor comments**

- Scale sensitivity and reproducibility is mandatory (or a supplier and reference is necessary)
- As the name implies, DEXA need at least two energies. Only one is presented in the manuscript (100KV). what about the second one. Some data are not presented adequately e.g DEXA with a narrow-angle fan beam. The word collimator is missing
- Scan speed and percentage of overlap for the detector cells are also mandatory metrics.