INGUINAL HERNIAS in male pigs are common, and they usually extend into the scrotum. Suspending the piglet by the forelegs and gently shaking, which generally causes even a small hernial bulge to become visible can confirm the diagnosis. In female pigs, this defect is invariably accompanied by arrested genital development; such animals are sterile, and surgery is indicated only when the size of the defect is a threat to the growth of the pig to market weight. Inguinal hernias in male foals frequently resolve spontaneously during the first year of life, often assisted with repetitive manual reduction. For this reason, early corrective surgery is not indicated unless the hernia is strangulated or of such magnitude that it interferes with gait.

Predisposing factors for inguinal hernias are believed to be inherited polygenically. The overall incidence of hernias in a normal swine population is low unless matings to a boar that transmits inguinal hernias have occurred. Inguinal hernias can be bilateral or mono-lateral with most occurring on the left side. Protrusion of intestines through the inguinal canal often follows castration of pigs that unknowingly have an inguinal hernia. If left uncastrated, strangulation of the intestine within an inguinal hernia can occur. Umbilical hernias occur in both sexes and tend to develop as a result of poor umbilical cord management, navel infection, or navel sucking by pennmates.

SOURCES: 1. http://www.merckmanuals.com/vet/digestive\_system/congenital\_and\_inherited\_anomalies\_of\_the\_digestive\_system/hernias.html

2. http://vetmed.iastate.edu/vdpam/new-vdpam-employees/food-supply-veterinary-medicine/swine/swine-diseases/miscellaneous-lesions#hernias