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8

Abstract

This study aimed to enhance the quality of broiler breast meat by adding pig skin collagen to feed. A total of 50 Ross 308 broilers were classified according to the following feeding regime for two weeks: basal diet (NC), basal diet + 0.1% fish collagen (PC), basal diet + 0.1% pig skin collagen (T1), basal diet + 0.5% pig skin collagen (T2), and basal diet + 1.0% pig skin collagen (T3). The moisture content was the highest in the PC group, and the protein content was the lowest in the T1 group ($p < 0.05$). The fat content was higher in the T1 and PC groups, whereas the ash content was higher in the T3 group ($p < 0.05$). Drip loss was the highest in the NC group and the lowest in the T2 group ($p < 0.05$). Lightness was low in groups T2 and T3, redness was low in groups T2 and PC, and yellowness was low in groups T1, T2, and PC ($p < 0.05$). The collagen content of the chicken breast was the highest in the T3 group, and that of the skin was the highest in the T1 group ($p < 0.05$). The tissue characteristics of springiness, cohesiveness, chewiness, and hardness were the highest in the T3 group ($p < 0.05$). In conclusion, the supplementation of a broiler diet with pig skin collagen was found to increase the collagen content of the breast meat, indicating the improved quality of the broiler breast meat.

Keywords: broiler meat, pig skin, collagen, drip loss, tissue characteristics

Introduction

Meat and meat products play an important role in the human diet as they provide proteins and essential amino acids that are difficult to obtain from vegetables and fruits (Kushi et al., 2006). In particular, poultry meat is preferred by consumers owing to its nutritional value as well as cost (Stanciu, 2020). The average poultry meat consumption of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) member countries was 31.7 kg/capita in 2020, which reflects an increase of approximately 5 kg from 26.57 kg/capita in 2010. In contrast, the world's average poultry meat consumption was 14.88 kg/capita in 2020, compared to approximately 12.73 kg/capita in 2010. The consumption of poultry meat in the United States was 50.1 kg/capita in 2020, whereas it was 14 kg/capita in China, and 18.7 kg/capita in Korea (OECD meat consumption, 2020). Poultry production and consumption have increased significantly over the past 40 – 50 years, and are expected to increase further, especially in developing countries, making chicken the most valuable source of meat protein for the growing world population (Baldi et al., 2020; OECD-FAO, 2020). In a survey of 1,100 adult men and women aged between 20 and 69 years old in Korea, the annual consumption of chicken was found to have increased due to easy delivery and online purchases, despite the challenges introduced by COVID-19. When purchasing chicken meat at home, the first criterion was freshness (63.6%), followed by price (39.9%), meat quality (36.9%), and expiration date (29.1%). In addition, the most common improvement for promoting chicken consumption was providing grade-based information (83.7%) and soft-textured meat (93.5%) (Rural Development Administration, 2020). The livestock industry focuses on health-oriented livestock products. In particular, meat processing products were developed to meet the requirements of modern consumers who prioritize improved living standards, diet, and food safety (Hafez and Attia, 2020). Therefore,

53   chicken products have been improved in various ways, such as changing the cooking methods

54   and developing partial meat products (Kook et al., 2020).

55   Most waste in the meat industry is generated during slaughtering, which raises concerns for

56   environmental protection and sustainability (Russ and Meyer-Pittroff, 2004). The slaughter by-

57   products include bones, tendons, skin, gastrointestinal contents, blood, and internal organs

58   (Grosse, 1984). These can be generally utilized as food or reprocessed as secondary by-

59   products in agriculture and industry (Liu, 2002). Many studies have been conducted to utilize

60   the slaughter by-products (Jayathilakan et al., 2012; Min et al., 2017; Mirzapour-Kouhdasht et

61   al., 2020). Collagen is an animal protein that accounts for approximately 30% of the animal

62   protein and can be easily obtained from livestock, including fish, pigs, and chicken

63   (Aberoumand, 2012; Cheng et al., 2009; Huo and Zheng, 2009; Muyonga et al., 2004; Pataridis

64   et al., 2008). It provides strength and support to the skin, bone, cartilage, tendon, and blood

65   vessels, and plays a major role in the extracellular matrix (Erdmann et al., 2008; Mendis et al.,

66   2005; Ngo et al., 2011). Collagen forms a scaffold for tissue treatment and wound healing and

67   is used in applications related to drug delivery systems in the urology, biotechnology, and

68   medical fields (Nune et al., 2017). In the food industry, collagen is used in protein supplements,

69   fragrances, gelling agents, emulsifiers, and additives aimed at improving texture (Nazeer and

70   Kumar, 2012). The ingredients in poultry feed are high in methionine and lysine and should be

71   a source of energy and minerals. Collagen is high in methionine (6%) and lysine (19%), so it

72   plays an important role as a feed supplement in the poultry industry (Nazeer et al., 2011).

73   Proper protein feed is important for broiler growth and meat quality (Beski et al., 2015). Many

74   studies have focused on improving the meat quality of chicken through feed supplementation

75   using natural products and by-products, such as collagen (Choi, 2005; Park et al., 2005; Woo

76   et al., 2007). Supplementation with hydrolyzed collagen is known to have a positive impact on

77   tibial dimensions, strength, and the mineral content of broilers (Güz et al., 2019). Collagen

78   feeding can play an important role in increasing the muscle content of the broiler, and the

79   collagen component proline can provide a higher initial growth rate than other amino acids,

80   and thereby is a necessary ingredient. Therefore, collagen-related studies have focused on

81   extracting collagen from by-products produced by the livestock and fish industries and using

82   it as an effective supplement for alternative feed (Nurubhasha et al., 2019). The current study

83   aimed to improve the availability of pig skin, which is a by-product of the pig industry, to

84   enhance the quality of broiler breast meat.

85

86   ## Materials and Methods

87

88   **Pig skin collagen extract**

89   Six liters of distilled water and 3 kg of pig skin were put into an electronic pressure extractor

90   (KS 220S, Kyungseo E&P, Korea) at 80 ℃ for 5 h. After heating, the insoluble collagen was

91   strained through the gauze. The collagen extract was hydrolyzed at 60 ℃ for 5 h using protease

92   (Love Me Tender, H GROUP USA LLC, USA) and concentrated at 80 ℃ for 12 h. The collagen

93   extract was cooled at room temperature for 20 minutes and filtered to 9,450 daltons using a

94   10,000-dalton filter (Multi-Angle Light Scattering, Korea Basic Science Institute, Korea). The

95   final collagen extracted from pig skin was stored at 4 ℃ for 24 hours and used for feed additive.

96

97   **Experimental design and animals**

98   Fifty Ross 308 broilers, two weeks old with an average weight of 322 ± 0.3 g, were housed for

99   two weeks before the experiment. The experiment was conducted with five random, completely

100   blocked treatments, classified into the following groups: the negative control (basal diet, NC),

101   positive control (basal diet + 0.1% fish collagen (fish collagen premium power, Graviola House,

102   Korea), PC), T1 (basal diet + 0.1% pig skin collagen), T2 (basal diet + 0.5% pig skin collagen),

103   and T3 (basal diet + 1.0% pig skin collagen) groups. The basal diet met or exceeded the

104   National Research Council (NRC) (1994) requirements. All broilers were allowed to consume

105   both feed and water ad libitum. After completing the two-week feeding regime, the tibial bone

106   size, weight and skin thickness of the broilers were measured and the left breast was harvested

107   for meat quality analysis.

108

109   **Analysis method**

110   In this study, five replicates of the same treatment were prepared and analyzed. The average

111   value was considered the result.

112

113   **General components**

114   Moisture, fat, protein, and ash (%) were measured in accordance with the Association of

115   Official Agricultural Chemists method (AOAC) (2012).

116

117   **pH**

118   pH was measured after adding 50 ml of distilled water to 5 g of breast meat sample. All samples

119   were homogenized at 230 rpm for 30 s using a homogenizer (Stomacher$^{®}$400 Circulator,

120   Seward, UK) and the pH was measured using a pH meter (Mettler Toledo Delta 340, Mettler-

121   Toledo, Ltd, UK).

122

123   **Water-holding capacity**

124   The water-holding capacity was estimated by the centrifugation method as reported by

125   Lakkonen et al. (1970). The crushed sample (0.5 ± 0.05 g) was placed in the upper filter tube

126   of the centrifuge tube, heated in an 80 °C water bath for 20 min, and cooled thereafter for 10

127   min. The centrifuge tube centrifuged for 10 min at 2000 rpm. It is displayed as the ratio of the

128   remaining sample weight / the sample weight before heating

129

130   **Tissue characteristics and shear force**

131   To measure the texture characteristics of the sample, the mastication test, shear, and cutting

132   tests were performed using a rheometer (COMPAC-100, Sun Scientific Co., Japan), and the

133   sample was placed at right angles to the direction of the muscle fibers in a 3cm-thick steak

134   shape. The muscle was sheared and heated to an internal temperature of 70 ℃, and then allowed

135   to cool under running water for 30 min. From the cooled sample, a 1-cm-diameter core was

136   drilled in a cylindrical shape along the muscle fiber direction to collect the sample and then cut

137   in the direction perpendicular to the muscle fiber using a rheometer (Compac-100, Sun

138   Scientific Co., Japan) to measure the shear force. The measurement was repeated three or more

139   times.

140

141   **Drip loss**

142   After shaping a 2-cm-thick sample into a circle (100 ± 5 g), it was put in a polypropylene bag

143   and vacuum packed. The amount of drip loss generated during storage in a refrigerator at 4 ℃

144   for 24 h was measured as the weight ratio (%) of the initial sample.

145

146   **Cooking loss**

147   After shaping a 3-cm-thick sample into a circle (150 ± 5 g), it was put into a polypropylene

148   bag, vacuum packed, and heated in a 70 ℃ water bath for 40 min, followed by cooling for 30

149   min. The weight lost after heating was measured as the weight ratio (%) of the first sample.

150

151   **Hunter color measurement**

152   The surface color of the breast meat was measured using a spectrophotometer (Model JX-777,

153   Color Techno. System Co., Japan) standardized with a white plate (CIE L*, 94.04; CIE a*,

154   0.13; CIE b*, -0.51), with the CIE L* value on a HunterLab color system representing lightness,

155   the CIE a* value representing redness, and the CIE b* value representing yellowness using a

156   white fluorescent lamp (D65).

157

158   **Collagen measurement**

159   Approximately 4 g of sample was placed in an Erlenmeyer flask, and 30 ml of sulfuric acid

160   solution was added to the sample. The flask was covered with a lid and heated in a dry oven at

161   105 ℃ for 16 h. The contents of the flask were transferred to a 500 ml volumetric flask, diluted

162   with tertiary distilled water, and homogenized. A Whatman No. 2 150 mm filter was used to

163   filter the sample. The filtrate (5 ml) was diluted to 100 ml, and 2 ml of the diluted sample was

164   added to a test tube, to which 1 ml of oxidant solution was added, shaken, and finally left at

165   20 ℃ to 25 ℃ for 20 min. Next, 1 ml of a color reagent was added to each test tube, mixed,

166   and these samples were incubated in a 60 ℃ water bath for 15 min, cooled under flowing water

167   for 3 min or more, and finally, the absorbance was measured at a fixed wavelength of 558 nm

168   using a spectrophotometer. For preparation of the standard curve, 2 ml of the working standard

169   solution was taken and its absorbance measured based on color development. The collagen

170   content (g/100 g) was analyzed by substituting the sample absorbance into the regression

171   equation (Kolar, 1990).

172

173   **Measurement of tibial bone size, weight, and skin thickness**

174   The left tibia bones of each broiler were removed as drumsticks with the flesh intact. The

175   drumsticks were immersed in boiling water (100 ℃) for 10 min. After cooling to room

176   temperature, the drumsticks were defleshed by hand and the patella was removed. Then, they

177 were dried for 24 h at room temperature. The tibial length and bone weight were measured.

178 Skin thickness was measured immediately after slaughter.

179

180 **Fatty acid analysis**

181 The sample (50 g) was homogenized in 250mL of chloroform:methanol (2:1) solution at 3000

182 ppm according to the method of Folch et al. (1957). The lipids were extracted from the

183 homogeneous solution and sodium anhydrous sulfate was used to remove moisture from the

184 liquid from which the lipids were extracted and the filtrate was concentrated at $50 - 55$ °C. One

185 milliliter of tricosanic acid was added first, followed by 1 ml of 0.5 N NaOH. The sample was

186 heated at 100 °C for 20 min, cooled for 30 min, and 2 ml of BF3 was added, heated for 20 min,

187 and finally cooled for 30 min. After adding heptane and 4 ml of NaCl, the supernatant was

188 removed and injected into a gas chromatograph to measure the fatty acid content.

189

190 **Analysis of free amino acids**

191 Amino acid analysis was conducted according to the standard analysis method proposed by the

192 Livestock Technology Research Institute in 2000 using an amino acid analyzer. Briefly, 100

193 mg of sample (approximately 30 mg of crude protein) was placed in a decomposition bottle,

194 and 40 ml of 6 N HCl was added, followed by the injection of nitrogen gas. It was placed in an

195 evaporating flask, connected to a rotating evaporator, and the hydrochloric acid was removed

196 at 50 °C. When the evaporation was completed, the distilled water bottle was washed with

197 distilled water, the contents transferred to the evaporative flask, and evaporation was conducted

198 thrice. A small amount of buffer solution (pH 2.2) or distilled water was added to the final

199 evaporative flask to dissolve the amino acids, and the sample was then filtered through No. 5B

200 filter paper, and the volume was made up to 50 ml. This sample was used as the amino acid

201 analyzer specimen and its absorbance was measured at 570 nm.

202

Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis was conducted using the General Linear Model (GLM) procedure of the SAS program (Statistical Analysis System 2002, USA), and the significance of the comparisons between the means of the treatment groups was verified ($p < 0.05$) using Duncan's multiple range test.

208

Results and Discussion

210

General composition of breast meat from pig skin collagen-fed broilers

Table 1 shows the general composition of the breast meat from pig skin collagen-fed broilers. While the moisture content was the highest in the PC (74.33%) group, it was the lowest in the T3 group (72.94%). There was no significant difference between the NC, T1, and T2 groups in terms of moisture content. The protein content was significantly lower in the T1 group than in the NC group, and the PC group showed significantly low protein content. Previous studies reported that the growth of salmon was reduced upon replacing much of the fish protein concentrate fed to the fish with gelatin (Mundheim et al., 2004; Opstvedt et al., 2003). Studies have also shown that increasing the supply of bovine skin gelatin reduced the rate of protein digested from the meat and that the protein source affected the flow of endogenous amino acids into the intestines (Rutherfurd et al., 2015). According to research on the performance of broilers—which were provided feed in which a portion of soymeal was replaced by cow skin gelatin—the weight of the broilers decreased as the supply of cow skin gelatin gradually increased (Rutherfurd et al., 2015). These studies suggested that collagen supplementation may reduce the amino acid digestion rate of broilers, thus reducing the protein content in broiler

226   breast meat. As shown in Table 1, groups T1 and PC had significantly higher levels of fat than

227   the groups given other treatments. The fatty acid biosynthesis of algae depends upon the supply

228   of dietary carbohydrates for acetyl-CoA production, and when such carbohydrates are ingested,

229   insulin stimulation results in the increased activity of fatty acid synthase (FAS) and malate

230   dehydrogenase (MD) (Hillgartner et al., 1995). Most of the fat present in poultry comes from

231   carbohydrates, and glycolysis and NADPH are essential for the synthesis of fatty acids in the

232   cytoplasm. Therefore, fatty acid synthesis depends largely upon the supply of carbohydrates

233   from feed and the activity of the glycolytic system (Moon, 2018). The significantly higher fat

234   content in the PC group can be attributed to the carbohydrate content of the feed and is not

235   thought to be affected by collagen. The PC group also has a relatively high fat content owing

236   to its low protein content. Table 2 shows that the ash content significantly increased with

237   increases in the collagen levels. Feeding calf bone-extracted gelatin to early breeding chicks,

238   with high bone hemostatic capability (in 14 days) significantly improved the tibial ash, calcium,

239   and phosphorus content in the chicks. Considering that gelatin can improve bone strength by

240   promoting the mineralization of cartilage sheets (Kim et al., 2017), the feeding of pig skin

241   collagen can be assumed to increase the ash content in broiler breast meat.

242

243   **Quality characteristics of breast meat from pig skin collagen-fed broilers**

244   Table 2 shows the quality characteristics of the broiler breast meat. The NC group showed

245   significantly higher drip loss than the other treatments, whereas T2 showed the lowest. There

246   was no significant difference between cooking loss and the CIE L* of Hunter color. However,

247   the CIE a* of the T2 and PC groups was significantly lower than that of the other treatments,

248   whereas the CIE b* of the T1 group was the lowest. The collagen content of the skin was

249   significantly higher in the T1 group than in other treatment groups and was the lowest in the

250   T3 group. The drip loss, cooking loss, water-holding capacity, and color of the breast meat are

251 known to be related to pH (Berri et al., 2008; Fletcher, 1995; Mir et al., 2017). However, since

252 there was no significant difference in pH, an association between drip loss, cooking loss, water-

253 holding capacity, and color due to the difference in pH could not be determined. Increases in

254 the water-holding capacity were reported to improve tenderness, juiciness, firmness, and

255 appearance (Offer, 1988). Therefore, since there was no significant difference in the water-

256 holding capacity of the broiler breast meat, it is judged that there was no significant difference

257 in the shear force. A previous study reported a positive correlation between drip loss and time

258 in storage, suggesting that the oxidative processes occurring in both the lipid and protein

259 fractions during storage may alter the water-holding capacity (Lonergan et al., 2001). However,

260 since there was no significant difference in drip loss and water-holding capacity in this study,

261 the relationship between drip loss and water-holding capacity could not be determined. In this

262 study, the collagen content of the broiler breast meat was found to increase with the collagen

263 content of the feed, and the T3 group showed a significantly higher content than the NC group.

264 Preceding studies reported that the human consumption of collagen extracted from pig skin and

265 chicken feet was likely to affect the proliferation of fibroblasts and the formation of collagen

266 fibroblasts in collagen-specific ways (Iwai et al., 2005). The results of the previous study may

267 be related to the difference in the collagen content of the breast meat of broilers fed pig skin

268 collagen in this study.

269

270 **Tissue characteristics of breast meat from pig skin collagen-fed broilers**

271 Table 3 shows the tissue characteristics of broiler breast meat. Springiness and cohesiveness

272 were significantly higher in all treatment groups relative to those in the NC group, and

273 chewiness was significantly higher in the T3 group than in the other groups. Hardness was

274 significantly higher in the following order: T3, PC, T2, and T1. There was no significant

275 difference in shear force between the treatments. In a previous study, pigs that orally ingested

276 feed with collagen peptides were shown to have a higher fibroblast density in the dermis, larger

277 diameter and density of collagen fibrils, and a larger area of collagen than those that ingested

278 the basic diet and feed with lactalbumin (Matsuda et al., 2006). Small-diameter collagen fibrils

279 are mechanically weaker than thicker ones (Parry et al., 1978), and collagen fibrils are denser

280 due to the proliferation of fibroblasts in the dermis (Yamamoto et al., 2002). Collagen has been

281 proven to play a key role in determining the meat strength in various livestock, including birds

282 (Sirri et al., 2016). Broilers that ingested pig skin may be expected to have a greater diameter

283 and higher density of collagen fibrils in the dermis than those in the NC group. As the pig skin-

284 fed broilers had harder meat due to the high density of fibroblasts in the dermis, springiness,

285 cohesiveness, and chewiness of the meat may also be affected.

286

287 **Bone length, weight, and skin thickness of the breast meat from pig skin collagen-fed**

288 **broilers**

289 Table 4 shows the bone length, weight, and skin thickness of broiler breast meat. No significant

290 difference between the treatments was seen (Table 4). The bone weight was the heaviest in the

291 T1 group and tended to decrease with the addition of collagen extract. Although there was no

292 significant difference in the four treatment groups, the bone length tended to increase in the T1

293 and T2 groups compared to the NC group and tended to decrease in the T3 group. The addition

294 of gelatin extracted from calf bones to broiler feed is known to result in longer broiler tibiae

295 than those in the NC group (Beyranvand et al., 2019). In animal experiments, the intake of

296 hydrolyzed collagen by livestock was reported to improve bone density and bone mineral

297 content (Wu et al., 2004). The amount of type I collagen in bone substrate increased when mice

298 consumed hydrolyzed collagen (Nomura et al., 2005). Research has shown that the

299 consumption of alkali and acid-treated bone gelatin enhanced the surface area of the small

300 intestine, and consequently improved bone properties and the intestinal absorption of

301   phosphorus (Van Harn et al., 2017). There are report that gelatin intake promotes bone-forming

302   cell differentiation and bone regeneration in broilers and that gelatin can improve bone strength

303   by promoting the mineralization of cartilage sheets (Kim et al., 2017). The results of previous

304   studies show that collagen intake and bone are related, but no significant difference was

305   observed in this research. Compared to the NC group, there was no significant difference in

306   skin thickness between the T1 and T2 groups, although it was significantly lower in the T3

307   group. The results of a previous experiment showed that the thickness of the dermis in pigs fed

308   collagen peptide was similar to that of pigs fed lactalbumin group and the NC group (Matsuda

309   et al., 2006).

310

311   **Analysis of fatty acids and amino acids in breast meat from pig skin collagen-fed**

312   **broilers**

313   Table 5 shows the fatty acid analysis of the broiler breasts. No significant difference was

314   observed overall. The γ-linoleic acid (C18:3n6) content was the highest in the NC group (at

315   16.38%) and tended to decrease as the extract content in the treatments increased. The γ-linoleic

316   acid (C18:3n6) content in the PC group was 14.80% and it was the lowest level in the T3 group

317   at 13.59%. Feeding pigs with diets containing conjugated linoleic acid has been reported to

318   significantly increase the L* and a* values of pig tenderloin, although it did not increase the

319   b* value (Dunshea et al., 2005). As shown in Table 5, the γ-linoleic acid (C18:3n6) content of

320   NC and T1 was high, and as shown in Table 2, the L* and a* values of the NC and T1 groups

321   were high. The results of this study are similar to those reported in previous studies. The L*

322   and a* values were attributed to the γ-linoleic acid content (C18:3n6). Table 6 shows the amino

323   acid analysis of broiler breast meat. While there was no significant difference in the overall

324   amino acid content, lysine, histidine, and arginine showed lower levels in the T1, T2, and T3

325   groups than in the NC group.

326

Conclusions

328   This study was conducted to investigate the quality of broiler breast meat after feeding broilers

329   pig skin collagen, a by-product of the pig farming industry, and to upgrade broiler breast meat

330   to meet the consumer requirements. The protein content was highest in the NC and T3 groups

331   ($p < 0.05$). Drip loss was the highest in the negative control ($p < 0.05$). As the pig skin collagen

332   content increased in broiler feed, the collagen content, springiness, cohesiveness, chewiness,

333   and hardness also gradually increased ($p < 0.05$). In terms of Hunter color, CIE L* and the CIE

334   a* value were high in the NC and T1 groups ($p < 0.05$), and the CIE b* was low in the T1

335   group ($p < 0.05$). Bone weight was the highest in the T1 group, bone length was the shortest in

336   the T3 group, and the skin also was the thinnest in the T3 group ($p < 0.05$). Therefore, the

337   breast meat of pig skin collagen-fed broilers was of better quality than that of the NC group.

338   Among them, T3 was considered to have the most improved broiler breast meat quality because

339   it had the highest collagen content, best tissue characteristics, and the lowest drip loss, despite

340   the disadvantage of poor skin thickness. Research is needed to offset the disadvantages of poor

341   skin thickness for higher meat quality.

342

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344

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Tables

Table 1 General components of breast meat from pig skin collagen-fed broilers

Treatments	NC	PC	T1	T2	T3
Moisture	73.05 ± 0.36^{bc}	74.33 ± 0.04^{a}	73.33 ± 0.09^{bc}	73.57 ± 0.30^{b}	72.94 ± 0.01^{c}
Protein	24.42 ± 0.12^{a}	21.80 ± 0.39^{c}	23.35 ± 0.27^{b}	23.78 ± 0.18^{ab}	24.13 ± 0.35^{a}
Fat	1.11 ± 0.21^{b}	2.00 ± 0.26^{a}	2.20 ± 0.18^{a}	1.16 ± 0.25^{b}	1.29 ± 0.08^{b}
Ash	1.10 ± 0.04^{b}	1.10 ± 0.00^{b}	1.06 ± 0.02^{b}	1.12 ± 0.02^{ab}	1.18 ± 0.01^{a}

NC: basal diet, PC: basal diet + 0.1% fish collagen powder T1: basal diet +0.1% collagen, T2: basal diet + 0.5% collagen, T3: basal diet + 1.0% collagen,
$^{a,\,b}$Means in the same row with different superscripts differ ($p < 0.05$).

496 **Table 2 Quality characteristics of breast meat from pig skin collagen-fed broilers**

Treatments		NC	PC	T1	T2	T3
Drip loss (%)		4.41 ± 0.19^a	3.26 ± 0.47^b	2.77 ± 0.15^{bc}	2.37 ± 0.32^c	3.38 ± 0.84^b
Cooking loss (%)		20.2 ± 2.32	20.86 ± 1.81	21.37 ± 1.04	19.25 ± 2.16	21.67 ± 1.11
WHC[1] (%)		66.6 ± 5.24	61.64 ± 8.29	59.05 ± 4.67	63.46 ± 0.15	65.16 ± 1.24
pH		6.19 ± 0.14	6.22 ± 0.14	6.11 ± 0.15	6.26 ± 0.13	6.15 ± 0.21
Hunter Color[2]	**L***	58.82 ± 2.72^a	55.84 ± 1.06^{ab}	56.88 ± 1.2^{ab}	54.08 ± 1.02^b	54.16 ± 1.91^b
	a*	18.57 ± 1.04^a	12.78 ± 0.66^b	18.26 ± 0.4^a	12.58 ± 0.62^b	18.73 ± 1.23^a
	b*	14.61 ± 2.01^{ab}	12.11 ± 3.09^{bc}	9.56 ± 0.44^c	11.88 ± 0.61^{bc}	17.52 ± 0.39^a
Collagen in breast meat (mg/g)		4.69 ± 1.58^e	29.42 ± 1.58^d	50.90 ± 1.55^c	79.88 ± 4.96^b	226.14 ± 6.29^a
Collagen in skin (g/100g)		0.34 ± 0.02^b	0.26 ± 0.02^b	0.50 ± 0.06^a	0.31 ± 0.00^b	0.16 ± 0.01^c

497 NC: basal diet, PC: basal diet + 0.1% fish collagen powder T1: basal diet +0.1% collagen, T2: basal diet + 0.5% collagen, T3: basal diet + 1.0% collagen,
498 [a, b]Means in the same row with different superscripts differ ($p < 0.05$).
499 1) WHC: water holding capacity
500 2) L*: lightness, a*: redness, b*: yellowness.

Table 3 Tissue characteristics of breast meat from pig skin collagen-fed broilers

Treatments	NC	PC	T1	T2	T3
Springiness (%)	32.13 ±2.72[c]	51.95 ±2.13[a]	47.16 ±2.76[ab]	46.36 ±2.6[b]	50.13 ±2.95[ab]
Cohesiveness (%)	43.74 ±3.82[c]	55.44 ±1.86[ab]	55.54 ±2.18[ab]	49.29 ±7.26[bc]	57.26 ±2.46[a]
Chewiness (%)	35.52 ±17.97[c]	98.89 ±6.44[b]	58.57 ±11.08[c]	85.14 ±13.97[b]	166.91 ±16.18[a]
Hardness (g)	1174.26 ±702.75[e]	5190.88 ±251.98[b]	2776.36 ±659.36[d]	3951.58 ±713.41[c]	8339.29 ±404.09[a]
Shear force (g)	1156.12 ±201.07	1206.75 ±325.27	1755.27 ±721.66	1518.99 ±277.61	1953.59 ±912.12

NC: basal diet, PC: basal diet + 0.1% fish collagen powder T1: basal diet +0.1% collagen, T2: basal diet + 0.5% collagen, T3: basal diet + 1.0% collagen,
[a, b]Means in the same row with different superscripts differ ($p < 0.05$).

Table 4 Bone length, weight, and skin thickness of breast meat from pig skin collagen-fed broilers

Treatments	NC	PC	T1	T2	T3
Bone weight (g)	8.92±2.77	8.98±3.35	9.44±2.94	8.90±1.47	7.00±0.19
Bone length (cm)	7.46±1.46	7.66±0.70	7.72±0.56	7.98±0.52	7.00±0.24
Skin thickness (cm)	0.37±0.04[a]	0.31±0.03[ab]	0.38±0.03[a]	0.38±0.04[a]	0.26±0.06[b]

NC: basal diet, PC: basal diet + 0.1% fish collagen powder T1: basal diet +0.1% collagen, T2: basal diet + 0.5% collagen, T3: basal diet + 1.0% collagen,
[a, b]Means in the same row with different superscripts differ ($p < 0.05$).

508 **Table 5 Analysis of fatty acids in breast meat from pig skin collagen-fed broilers**

509 **(%)**

Fatty acids	NC	PC	T1	T2	T3
Myristic acid (C14:0)	0.84	0.84	0.82	0.84	0.87
Palmitic acid (C16:0)	20.76	22.95	22.19	23.76	23.81
Palmitoleic acid (C16:ln7)	5.08	5.40	5.08	8.42	6.78
Stearic acid (C18:0)	7.58	7.94	7.54	5.45	7.18
Oleic acid (C18:ln9)	45.04	44.23	45.15	44.52	44.35
Linoleic acid (C18:2n6)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
γ-Linoleic acid (C18:3n6)	16.38	14.80	15.60	13.74	13.59
Linolenic acid (C18:3n3)	0.10	0.17	0.15	0.14	0.11
Eicosenoic acid (C20:ln9)	2.38	1.89	2.12	2.03	2.17
Arachidonic acid (C20:4n6)	0.58	0.69	0.66	0.56	0.61
Total	1.26	1.09	0.70	0.54	0.52
SFA[1]	29.18	31.73	30.55	30.05	31.86
USFA[2]	70.82	68.27	69.45	69.95	68.14
MUFA[3]	50.12	49.63	50.23	52.94	51.13
PUFA[4]	49.88	50.37	49.77	47.06	48.87
n-3 fatty acids	29.18	31.73	30.55	30.05	31.85
n-6 fatty acids	70.82	68.27	69.45	69.95	68.15

510 NC: basal diet, PC: basal diet + 0.1% fish collagen powder T1: basal diet +0.1% collagen, T2: basal diet + 0.5% collagen, T3: basal diet + 1.0% collagen,
511 1) SFA: saturated fatty acid
512 2) USFA: unsaturated fatty acid
513 3) MUFA: monounsaturated fat
514 4) PUFA: polyunsaturated fat

Table 6 Analysis of free amino acids in breast meat from pig skin collagen-fed broilers (%)

Treatments	NC	PC	T1	T2	T3
Cysteine	0.266	0.249	0.251	0.263	0.265
Methionyl	0.575	0.509	0.536	0.553	0.557
Aspartic acid	2.115	1.957	2.021	2.107	2.078
Threonine	1.027	0.957	0.983	1.027	1.011
Serine	0.899	0.862	0.864	0.909	0.893
Glutamic acid	3.322	3.108	3.140	3.323	3.281
Glycine	0.952	0.907	0.925	0.955	0.949
Alanine	1.301	1.196	1.245	1.287	1.276
Valine	1.059	0.954	1.004	1.039	1.031
Isoleucine	1.026	0.918	0.956	1.004	0.998
Leucine	1.905	1.735	1.805	1.879	1.859
Tyrosine	0.724	0.657	0.684	0.712	0.704
Phenylalanine	0.900	0.845	0.859	0.896	0.891
Lysine	2.123	1.883	1.988	2.049	2.026
Histidine	0.837	0.726	0.693	0.707	0.697
Arginine	1.500	1.339	1.404	1.474	1.457
Proline	0.778	0.713	0.739	0.750	0.749

NC: basal diet, PC: basal diet + 0.1% fish collagen powder T1: basal diet +0.1% collagen, T2: basal diet + 0.5% collagen, T3: basal diet + 1.0% collagen