

Hale Equine News

Spring newsletter 2015



Atypical Myopathy

As the spring sunshine arrives, it is important to remember that this time of year is a high risk period for Atypical Myopathy. Unlike in the autumn, where the fallen seeds are the risk, in the spring it is the seedlings that are dangerous.

Atypical myopathy is a serious muscle disease linked to horses eating seeds or seedlings from trees in the Acer family including sycamore and box elder.

For more information on Atypical Myopathy, a fact sheet can be found on the Hale Equine webpage. If you are concerned about your horse please contact us immediately as the disease progresses rapidly and is often fatal.

Signs of Atypical Myopathy include:

- Muscle weakness/stiffness
- Colic-like symptoms
- Laboured breathing
- Dark red-brown urine
- Unable to stand
- Sudden death



Equine MRI

What is MRI?

MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) is an imaging technique that produces highly detailed images of both bone and soft tissue structures simultaneously. Images are produced by placing the body part to be imaged in a strong magnetic field, pulses of radio waves are then applied via a radiofrequency coil. The signal received back via the coil is converted into detailed images by computer software.

Unlike other imaging techniques MRI does not involve ionising radiation therefore it is very safe.



MRI use in the horse:

MRI is a relatively new technique in equine diagnostic imaging and is available in only a handful of clinics in the UK. It can be used to image any part of the lower limb up to and including the knee and hock.

The horse is required to stand still within the scanner, therefore most horses require sedation as scanning can take between 1 and 3 hours. Shoes are removed prior to entering the magnet to prevent interference with the strong magnetic field.

MRI is particularly useful for evaluating both the bony and soft tissue structures within the equine foot where conventional imaging techniques (x-rays and ultrasound) can limit an accurate diagnosis due to the hoof capsule getting in the way. MRI has allowed us to differentiate the many conditions which have been previously bundled together as 'navicular disease'. A specific diagnosis allows us to advise the best possible treatment and prognosis.

As well as the feet, MRI is very used for a more accurate diagnosis of injuries involving the carpal sheath, suspensory ligament, fetlock/pastern joint and lower limb fractures.

Despite the accuracy of the MRI images it is important that the results are interpreted in conjunction with clinical findings and other diagnostic methods such as nerve/joint blocks, radiography (x-ray) and ultrasonography.

Hale equine is a 100% equine veterinary service dedicated to providing care for your horse 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, based in Chippenham.



Meet the Hale Equine Team.....

Senior Partner:

Peter Hatherell
BVSc MRCVS



Assistants:

Anna Quiggin
BSc BVSc MRCVS



Charlie Tomlinson
BVetMed MRCVS



Nikki Waterman
BVSc MRCVS



Office Staff:

Elissa Owen

Karen Maisey



Get in touch!

➤ Phone: 01249 653561

➤ E-mail:
equine@halevethospital.co.uk

➤ Facebook: Hale Veterinary
group –Equine Unit

➤ Twitter: @HaleEquineVets

www.haleveterinaryhospital.co.uk/equine/



MRI case studies....

'Max'

History: 4 year old Dutch Warmblood gelding presented with swelling of the left fore pastern region and intermittent lameness left fore having broken through post and rail fencing 5 days previously.

Clinical exam: Diffuse swelling and heat in pastern region, no evidence of pain on palpation.

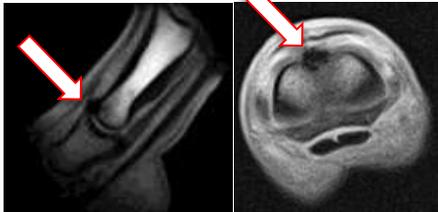
Basic Imaging: X-rays demonstrated no abnormalities and ultrasound revealed a pocket underneath the extensor tendon possibly containing a small bone fragment.

MRI at Donnington Grove: Revealed a clear point of injury on the midline just above the pastern joint. At this site a sub-periosteal haematoma (bone bruise) was observed. This is an unusual condition in the horse but is well recognized in man.

Treatment: Rest followed by a gradual return to exercise

Prognosis: Good

Outcome: Max has returned to his show jumping training as normal.



'Blue'

History: 6 year old Connemara gelding used for show jumping had come in from field very lame (6/10) in walk on his left fore.

Clinical Exam: No obvious signs of trauma. The lameness was localized to the foot following a nerve block.

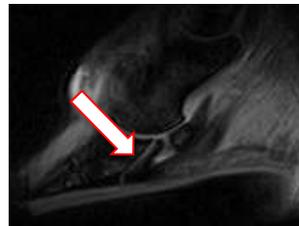
Basic Imaging: Radiography of the foot revealed no obvious abnormalities and this was confirmed by the orthopaedic specialists at Donnington Grove Veterinary Surgery.

MRI at Donnington Grove: Revealed a type 2 fracture of the pedal bone (i.e. a fracture of the wing of the pedal bone which involved the surface of the coffin joint).

Treatment: Box rest, hoof casting, remedial shoeing

Prognosis: Very good

Outcome: Blue's owner Ingrid tells us "Blue is now 2 years down the track and has made a full recovery. He has started jumping BSJA and is looking forward to going BE eventing this season".



'Molly'

History: 10 year old ISH mare presented with 3/10 lameness right hind.

Clinical exam: No obvious signs of trauma. The lameness was localized to the pastern and fetlock region following nerve blocks.

Basic Imaging: X-rays of the foot, pastern and fetlock revealed a shadow in the site where a 'split pastern' would occur.

MRI at Donnington Grove: Revealed moderate bone "bruising" in the region where a "split pastern" would occur and an incomplete fracture of the pastern bone.

Treatment: Screw placed in pastern bone under standing sedation to stabilize the fracture

Prognosis: Good

Outcome: Treatment ongoing



MRI image



X-rays



Hale Promotions

We have several offers that run continuously to make routine veterinary care more affordable for the horse owner

Zone days: Take advantage of a £10 discount off your visit fee by booking your vaccinations and routine visits on a specific week day. Call the office or visit the website to find out which 'zone' you are in.

Free visit if we attend 4 or more horses on the same yard

No visit fee if you bring your horse to our equine unit at Lackham College for treatment

Equiplus: We have a direct debit scheme that allows you to pay for routine veterinary care in affordable monthly instalments. Equiplus also includes other benefits including 5% off all professional fees. See the website or contact the practice to learn more.

Free microchipping if done at the same time as vaccination.

As well as the above offers we are continually running promotional / short term offers, details of these can be found by visiting our webpage or facebook page.

Equine Team news

Susie has decided to continue to work in New Zealand for another stud season so will not be returning to Hale as originally planned.

We are pleased to announce that Nikki Waterman will be staying on as a permanent full time equine vet. Nikki has been working for Hale for 2 years covering Anna, Charlie and Susie's leave so many of you would have had the opportunity to meet already.

Keep an eye on our webpage and facebook page for quiz questions and competitions as well as our client evenings, up to date offers, case studies and hot topics.



(Hale Veterinary Group – Equine unit)
www.haleveterinaryhospital.co.uk/equine/