SERUM AMYLOID A RESPONSE POST LAPAROTOMY IN COLIC HORSES – A PRELIMINARY STUDY

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Background: Serum amyloid A (SAA), an acute-phase protein, has become a widely used diagnostic indicator for inflammation and infection. As there are no reports on the magnitude of the SAA response following emergency laparotomy (colic surgery), distinguishing between infection and expected post-surgical inflammation due to trauma is difficult.

Objectives: (1) To determine the increase in SAA following colic surgery and (2) to compare it to changes in leukocyte count (WBC).

Methods: Horses two years and older, presented for colic where emergency laparotomy was included. Whole blood SAA concentration (StableLab® Epona Biotech, Sligo, Ireland) and WBC (Idexx Procyte® Idexx, Ludwigsburg, Germany) were determined immediately before and 48, 72, and 96 hours after surgery.

Results: 41 horses underwent surgery. 28 horses were excluded (21 intraoperative euthanasia, one repeat laparotomy, six incomplete records). Of the remaining 13 horses, ten had non-inflammatory, three inflammatory. SAA concentration increased significantly after surgery. Non-inflammatory cases had significantly lower SAA concentrations pre- and post surgery compared to inflammatory cases. WBC did not reveal significant changes. At the time of discharge all horses had SAA concentrations <200 μg/ml.

Conclusion: Knowledge of the normal postoperative SAA concentrations is essential, if SAA is to be used for monitoring occurrence of postoperative infections. Differences in SAA concentrations between inflammatory and non-inflammatory cases are to be expected.

Ethical animal research: Client consent was obtained for samples. Source of funding: No funding required for this clinical review. Owners gave consent for publication of images.

INTESTINAL NEOPLASIA: A REVIEW OF 34 CASES

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Background: The increasing population of geriatric horses, coupled with increasing use of immunohistochemistry might be associated with changes in the incidence of different intestinal tumours.

Objectives: To describe tumour types and clinicopathological features of horses diagnosed with intestinal neoplasia in the UK in the last fifteen years.

Methods: Computerised medical records of a referral equine hospital and a first opinion equine clinic (2001 to 2016) were searched for cases of intestinal neoplasia. Cases were only included if a histopathological diagnosis of intestinal neoplasia was made. Information retrieved included signalment, history, presenting clinical signs, and results of diagnostic tests. Treatments, outcomes, surgical findings and results of post mortem examination were also recorded. Where appropriate, immunohistochemistry was used to confirm the pathological diagnoses.

Results: Thirty four horses with a histopathological diagnosis of intestinal neoplasia were reviewed; 17 lymphomas, five gastrointestinal stromal tumours (GISTs), four adenocarcinomas, three leiomyosarcomas, two leiomyomas, two squamous cell carcinomas (SCC) and one adenocarcinoma/mesothelioma. The average age at presentation was 19 years. Neoplasia was identified in all regions of the intestinal tract, with the jejunum being most frequently affected.

Conclusions: Intestinal neoplasia may have chronic or acute presentations, is more commonly seen in older horses, and most commonly affects the small intestine, but in our series had no breed predispositions. Alimentary lymphoma is the most common intestinal neoplasm. Trans-abdominal ultrasound is a valuable tool in the diagnostic investigation of these cases. Complete surgical resection, if possible, offers the best prognosis, but prognosis in most cases remains grave.

Ethical animal research: No declaration required for this clinical review. Owners gave consent for publication of images. Source of funding: No funding provided.

LONG-TERM SURVIVAL OF EQUINE SURGICAL COLIC CASES AT THE KORET SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE DURING THE YEARS 2010–2015

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Background: Long-term survival rates aid accurate prognostication and contribute to an international database for identifying areas for improvement worldwide.

Objective: Review data on horses in Israel that underwent exploratory laparotomy for colic and survived until discharge (2010–2015).