



Lameness Arthritis

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Equine Arthritis

arthritis is inflammation in a joint. Sudden severe joint inflammation with pain, heat, and stiffness is referred to as acute arthritis. Long-term joint inflammation is termed chronic arthritis. Osteoarthritis refers to a condition that involves progressive degeneration of the joint cartilage, enlargement of the bone margins, and changes in the membrane surrounding the joint capsule

Causes

- Acute arthritis can be caused by injury or by bacterial or viral infection.
- Chronic arthritis is often osteoarthritis that results from the cumulative effects of day-to-day activity and stress. Old injuries, joint infections
- Poor conformation
- hoof deformities
- problems with trimming or shoeing are other contributing factors

Diagnoses

- Watching the horse move is the usual first step in diagnosis
- A hands-on physical examination can detect swelling, heat, and tenderness
- A flexion test is useful in determining which joints are stiff or painful
- Once a particular leg is identified, nerve blocks can be performed to isolate the affected joint



Treatment

- Many cases of joint pain and inflammation can be successfully treated with a combination of rest and medication.
- Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
- Injectable products like hyaluronic acid or polysulfated glycosaminoglycans to increase viscosity of joint fluid and inhibit cartilage degeneration.
- Treatments like massage, acupuncture, and chiropractic have also provided relief to some horses.



Thank you