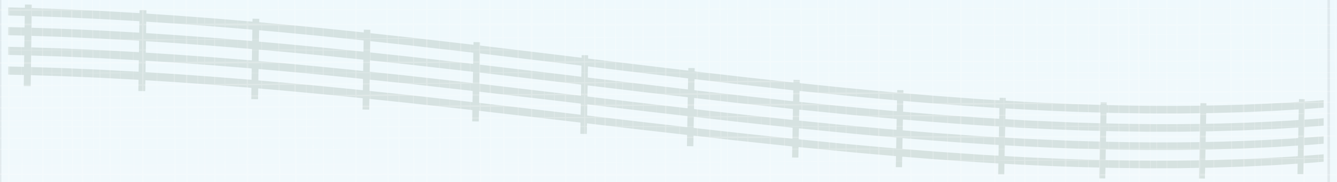

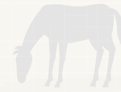

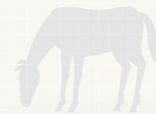

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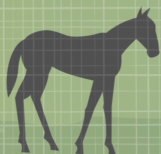
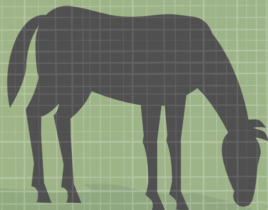
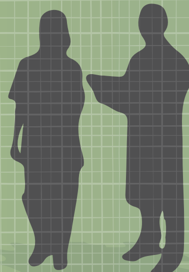
Handbook of Presentations







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EOTRH – which teeth should we be extracting?

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Equine odontoclastic tooth resorption and hypercementosis (EOTRH) summary

- A painful and progressive dental disease affecting middle-aged to geriatric horses
- Aetiology poorly understood
- Under-recognised
- Extraction is curative
- Huge potential to improve patient quality of life

Case approach

Early recognition is key

- Clinical exam
- Intraoral radiographs
- Staging using the ACVD classification (Stage 1–5)
- Owner education
- Treatment decisions
- Regular reassessment to monitor progression – rate of progression is variable and unpredictable

Treatment decisions

- Conservative management unrewarding once clinical signs develop
- Radiography is key in identifying and planning
- Approach options
  - o No treatment – monitor with annual /biannual radiography and oral exam
  - o Extraction – staged or en bloc
  - o Euthanasia – preferable to no treatment in advanced cases
- Other considerations
  - o Co-morbidities – PPID may affect post-operative healing
  - o Perceived quality of life – client education and communication vital
  - o Ability to provide post-operative care
  - o Finances

Tooth selection… which should we extract?

- Pain levels are difficult to determine
- Easy decisions:
  - o Any tooth with associated draining tracts
  - o Any loose/unstable teeth
  - o Obvious gingivitis/periodontitis
  - o Radiographic changes – tooth resorption, bone resorption, osteomyelitis
- Extraction of any tooth stage 2 or more is advocated
  - o Stage 2 resorption has the potential to be painful as it involves sensitive dentine
  - o Stages 3–5 resorptive lesions all involve the pulp cavity
- Extraction of all of the incisors and canines, where indicated, is to be advised
- Canines should not be underestimated – not used for prehension but can be very painful

Client communications and education

- Advanced disease may appear mild at first glance
- Chronic pain associated with progressive disease can easily go undetected
- Pain level is often underestimated
- Important to approach the discussion carefully- owners may have difficulty accepting the surprise suggestion that all of their horses incisors need to be extracted
- Imperative to counsel owners about the treatment journey
  - o The impact on quality of life
  - o Inevitable progression
  - o Surgery and post-operative care
  - o Complications – surgical site dehiscence common
  - o Protruding tongue
- Extracting just a few teeth, in cases where extraction of all would be preferential, is best avoided as the horse's pain is unlikely to be alleviated and could negatively impact owner compliance
- Sharing photos of previous cases is very helpful. Connecting the owner with previous clients can alleviate much of their anxiety about radical treatment
- Expectations following treatment
  - o Improved body condition and appetite
  - o Improved attitude

Anaesthesia

- Chronic pain: wind-up to be expected
- Very painful during procedure – multimodal analgesia required
  - o NSAID/ACP/morphine/detomidine i.v. bolus/detomidine i.m. bolus/detomidine CRI
- Local and regional anaesthesia – three techniques used simultaneously
  - o Infraorbital + mental perineural blocks
  - o Intraligamentous injection
  - o Mucosal injection
- Preoperative antimicrobial therapy

Surgery

- Best performed in clinic
  - o Graphic viewing + risk of fracturing fragile teeth
- En bloc may be best approach
- Technique options
  - o Simple elevation + luxation
  - o Mucogingival flap approaches
- Mucogingival flap dehiscence is to be expected in many cases
  - o Owner should be prepared
  - o Healing by second intention progresses well over a month or so
- Debridement of all diseased tissue is essential
- No fragments should remain as they will cause persistent inflammation

Post-operative care

- Daily flushing
- Courses of NSAID/antimicrobial therapy
- Diet
  - o No hard feed until surgical sites healed
  - o Lush green grass
  - o No haynets – forage should be thoroughly teased out
  - o Long term – horses will graze but best on longer grass