

CONTRIBUTION TO EXTRACORPOREAL SHOCK WAVE TREATMENT IN EQUINE ORTHOPEDICS

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In human medicine, treatment by extracorporeal shock wave therapy (ESWT) is an established therapeutic procedure in orthopedics. At the Tierklinik Telgte, Germany, horses with the indication of chronic proximal suspensory ligament desmitis were treated by ESWT in cooperation with Electro Medical Systems (EMS). The treatments were performed with the unit called Swiss DolorClast®Vet manufactured by EMS. Through March 1999, a total number of 17 chronic lame horses, from proximal suspensory ligament desmitis, were treated in a preliminary study and after the first treatment, 6 horses were already free from lameness. At the time of the follow-up, 10 of the treated horses were completely free from lameness, and in an additional 4 horses we noticed a distinct reduction of pain. ESWT for the treatment of chronic proximal suspensory ligament desmitis in equine medicine is a very promising method, as in this preliminary study 14 of 17 treated horses showed a reduction of pain. Additionally, it is a non-invasive method with no serious side effects other than temporary irritations of the skin. The study showed that with the "Swiss DolorClast®Vet" the treatment of lameness in horses by ESWT is an excellent non-invasive method.