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**DESCRIPCIÓN Y CARACTERIZACIÓN DE LOS PRINCIPALES HALLAZGOS
OFTÁLMICOS EN CABALLOS CON DIAGNÓSTICO DE UVEÍTIS
RECURRENTE EQUINA**



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I. RESUMEN

DESCRIPCIÓN Y CARACTERIZACIÓN DE LOS PRINCIPALES HALLAZGOS OFTÁLMICOS EN CABALLOS CON DIAGNÓSTICO DE UVEITIS RECURRENTE EQUINA

DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF MAIN OPHTHALMIC RESEARCHES IN HORSES DIAGNOSED OF EQUINE RECURRING UVEITIS

La uveítis recurrente equina (URE) es la causa más común de ceguera en los caballos. Esta se produce en forma paulatina por repetidos procesos inflamatorios del tracto uveal con periodos intermitentes de normalidad. En el Hospital de Animales Mayores de la Universidad de Concepción, campus Chillán entre marzo y junio del año 2009, se estudiaron 19 pacientes equinos, 14 de raza fina sangre chileno y 5 mestizos. Entre éstos, 12 hembras y 7 machos, con un rango de edad de 2 a 18 años y un promedio de edad de 7 años. Los motivos de consulta fueron: 7 caballos por signos de dolor, 4 por manifiesto cambio en su conducta, 4 por presentar un déficit visual y 4 por ser parte del examen de precompra. Los signos de uveítis anterior hallados en 12 ojos de 7 caballos fueron 12/12 signos de dolor, 4/12 ojos rojos, 10/12 sinequia posterior, 7/12 miosis, 7/12 efecto Tindall, 4/12 catarata y 3/12 edema corneal. Los signos de uveítis posterior encontrados en 22 ojos de 12 caballos fueron 7/22 coriorretinitis en alas de mariposa, 10/22 coriorretinitis en disparo, 2/22 desprendimiento de retina, 2/22 degeneración retinal, 1/22 ptisis bulbar y 6/22 catarata capsular posterior. Signos de dolor ocular y déficit visual deben ser considerados como motivos importantes de URE. La principal causa asociada a URE fue leptospirosis, encontrándose 10 caballos positivos serológicamente a diferentes serovares de *Leptospira spp.* Sin embargo, se debe investigar otros factores causales de la URE en Chile.

Palabras claves: epífora, tracto uveal, enfermedad autoinmune

II. SUMMARY

DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF MAIN OPHTHALMIC FINDINGS IN HORSES SUFFERING FROM EQUINE RECURRING UVEITIS

The Equine Recurring Uveitis (ERU) is the most common cause of blindness in horses. The loss of the vision occurs gradually and it is caused by repeated inflammation in the uveal tract, alternating with times normality. Between March and June, 2009, 19 equine patients from the Large Animals Hospital of the Universidad de Concepción (campus Chillan) were studied. Fourteen of these patients were Chilean Horses and the other 5 were half-breed. The study group was composed by 12 females and 7 males, with an age range between 2 and 18 years (average=7 years-old).

The reason for consultation at the Animal Hospital are as follows: 7 of them had pain in the eye(s), 4 of them had behaviour change, 4 had visual deficit, and 4 consulted as a part of a pre-purchase examination. The signs of anterior uveitis found in 12 eyes of 7 horses were: 12/12 eyes showed sign of pain, 4/12 eye were red, 10/12 eye had posterior synechia, 7/12 eyes had miosis, 7/12 eyes had Tindall effect, 4/12 eyes had cataracts, and 3/12 eyes had corneal edema.

The signs of posterior uveitis found in 22 eyes of 12 horses were: 7/22 eyes had “butterfly lesions” chorioretinitis, 10/22 eyes had “bullet hole” chorioretinitis, 2/22 eyes had retinal detachment, 2/22 eyes had retinal degeneration, 1/22 eyes had bulbar phthisis, and 6/22 eyes had posterior capsular cataract.

Signs of ocular pain and visual deficits in horses should be considered as major causes of ERU. The principal cause associated to ERU in horses in our study was leptospirosis, which was found in 10 serologically positive horses to different serovars of *Leptospira* sp. However, other causal factors of ERU in horses in Chile should be investigated in future.

Keywords: epiphora, uveal tract, auto-immune disease.