

E.P.M. SYNDROME-Equine Protozoal Myelitis

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A disease caused by a parasite (Sarcocystic neurona). The infective protozoa is consumed by the horse via pasture, hay, contaminated water source (ponds, streams) and contaminated grain. It gains entrance to the horses system through Gastric Ulcers and other damages to intestinal lining (Mucosa) caused by other intestinal parasites (worms), eventually finding its way to the Central Nervous System. From this point many symptoms may appear depending where the neurological insult occurs.

In most cases musculoskeletal symptoms are often observed:

- In the limbs from weakness to paralysis-muscle atrophy (wasting) to any structure having neurological insult including throat structures (2nd Cervical nerve, from dorsal cervico-thoraco ganglion) affecting or causing laryngeal hemiplagia, soft palate entrapment etc.
- Gluteal muscle atrophy is a common observation in that the lumbosacral nerve plexus has been affected.
- “Stumbling,” difficult “changing” leads, rear weakness, poor hair coat, changes in attitude, are among the many non specific symptoms which evades conventional diagnosis.

In former times serological findings (Western Blot) showed up to 80-90% of horses tested seropositive. Yet, many never showed clinical signs. Cerebral Spinal Fluid (C.S.F.) “taps” were better but not conclusive.

Now that the vaccine has come to the playing field, former “tests” are of no value at all.

So where are we at this point of time? THE BODY DOESN'T LIE

Currently acupuncture point diagnosis is the only dependable diagnostic tool.

Reality suggests the entire problem lies with the integrity of the Immune System

Current therapy for E.P.M. includes:

1. Treatment of Immune Related Points (Kupfer Cells in the Liver, Bone Marrow related points and Spleen-Lymphatic System) (Origin of undifferentiated Granulocytes “Killer Cells”
2. Injection of Autogenous blood into specific E.P.M. points as autogenous vaccine and immuno-stimulant.
3. Balancing of the meridian system.

Prescription:

NO MORE VACCINES-except Tetanus

Which can be immune-suppressive. No Cortico-steroids(Dexamethasone, Triamcinolone, A.C.T.H.,etc) which are “Anti-inflammatory” but immuno-suppressive.

Have treated E.P.M. on “Vaccinated” horses, and also treated West Nile on “Vaccinated” horses.

Be aware of vaccine merchandising.

Is this the answer? Don't know.

Currently it's the best based upon results. Is this “Published”? Yes. In the daily racing form which separates **THEORY** from **FACT**.