



Modern strategies for pain management: epidural analgesia

Thijs van Loon
DVM, PhD, DipECVAA

Department of Equine Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
Utrecht University, The Netherlands j.p.a.m.vanloon@uu.nl

In this lecture, the possibilities for epidural techniques will be discussed. The lecture will start with the anatomical details of the epidural space and the differences between the lumbosacral and the caudal approach. Anaesthetic protocols for epidural analgesia will be discussed and a series of cases will show the possibilities in clinic. The different options, ranging from local anaesthetics like lidocaine, mepivacaine and bupivacaine to opioids like morphine and methadone will be discussed.

The technique of epidural catheter placement will be shown and the protocols to handle these catheters under clinical conditions will be discussed as well.

After this lecture, the participant will be more comfortable to start using epidural techniques in horses, both for obtaining surgical anaesthetic conditions and for administering multimodal postoperative analgesia or analgesia to horses with trauma to the hindquarters.

References:

Natalini, C.C. (2010). Spinal anesthetics and analgesics in the horse. *Veterinary Clinics of North America, Equine Practice*, 26, 551-564.