



Hanneke Panhuijzen DVM,
MVR;
Teun Sterk DVM

DAP Bodegraven BV,
Zuidzijde 63, 2411RT
Bodegraven
The Netherlands

hp@dapbodegraven.nl

A PRACTICAL APPROACH ON URETHRAL RENTS IN GELDINGS: 3 CASES

Introduction

Defects in the urethral wall can cause haematuria in horses. Blood is typically detected at the end of miction and is caused by rents communicating between the urethra and corpus spongiosum. Quarter Horses appear to be predisposed for this condition. In this report a step-by-step approach is described for the treatment of urethral rents.

Materials & Methods

Three geldings presented for evaluation of haematuria and diagnosed with urethral rents in longitudinal orientation at the convex side of the urethra at the dorsal level of the ischial arch were selected for conservative, laser ablation and/or surgical treatment.

Results

Case 1, an 11-year-old Quarter Horse crossbreed, showed blood loss for a week. As the symptoms were decreasing since the onset of the condition, a conservative approach was successful after 3 weeks.

Case 2, a 14-year-old Dutch warmblood, showed signs of haematuria for 6 weeks. As conservative treatment was failing, the tissue surrounding the rent was coagulated using a diode laser and this appears to have resolved the complaints (will be followed up shortly).

Case 3, a 12-year-old Quarter Horse, had severe urethral bleeding for 4 days. Laser ablation of the tissue surrounding the rent was performed twice, but was only able to relieve the symptoms for a couple of days. Temporary subischial urethrostomy was performed and wound healing was complete after 6 weeks without any remaining complaints.

Discussion

Depending on the severity and duration of bleeding a conservative approach can be appropriate. In long-standing cases further treatment options must be considered. Laser ablation treatment is minimally invasive and is the preferred method but if not curative a temporary subischial urethrostomy should be considered.