



Levator labii superioris muscle transposition to treat oromaxillary sinus fistula (OSF) in 4 horses

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Objective– To describe a safe, efficient surgical technique and outcome for subtotal ostectomy of diseased dorsal spinal processes (DSPs) of the caudal thoracic and lumbar vertebrae with the horse standing.

Study Design– Case series.

Animals– Horses (n = 185) with reduced performance caused by impingement of the DSP of the caudal thoracic and lumbar vertebrae with pain confirmed by local anesthesia.

Methods– Affected DSPs were resected through a dorsal median incision with the horse standing, sedated and the surgical site desensitized with local anesthetic. Radiography was used to confirm removal of impinging bone before wound closure.

Results– No serious complications occurred. Outcome was obtained for 184 horses short-term (< 1 year) and long-term (> 1 year). Eight horses were still in the rehabilitation program, and another 16 horses had not reached long-term evaluation. Complete follow-up information was available for 99% of horses. For the 176 horses available for short-term evaluation, 167 horses (95%) returned to full athletic function, 8 horses (5%) improved but had failed to return to full function, and 1 horse had no improvement (<1%). For the 160 horses available for long-term evaluation, 132 horses were still in full athletic function (83%), 16 horses were improved but not in full function (10%), 11 horses were not improved (7%) and one horse was considered worse than before surgery (<1%). Owners of 180 horses (98%) reported satisfaction with the surgical results.

Conclusions – Subtotal ostectomy of impinging DSPs can be performed with excellent results with the horse standing.