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Program Chair: Scott A. Hay, DVM

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**Charlie Scoggin, DVM, MS, DACT, Educational Programs Committee Chair
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Surgical Management of Subchondral Cystic Lesions of the Medial Femoral Condyle with an Absorbable Implant

Paolo Ravanetti, DVM; Antoine Lechartier, DVM, DECVS; Muriel Hamon, DVM; Enrica Zucca, DVM, PhD; Cole Sandow, DVM, MS, DACVS-LA*; True Baker, DVM, DACVS; and Michael Spirito, DMV

A transcortical extra-articular approach to facilitate curettage, irrigation, and placement of an absorbable implant to treat subchondral cystic lesions of the medial femoral bone condyle may be a useful surgical treatment option to improve lameness as well as the radiographic appearance of subchondral cystic lesions. Authors' addresses: Equitecnica Equine Hospital, Parma, Italy (Ravanetti); Clinique Veterinaire Equine Méheudin, Ecouché, France (Lechartier, Hamon); Università Stadi Milano, Department of Health, Animal Science, and Food Safety, Lodi, Italy (Zucca); Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, 4250 Iron Works Pike, Lexington, KY 40511 (Sandow, Spirito, Baker); e-mail: csandow@hagyard.com. *Corresponding and presenting author. © 2020 AAEP.

1. Introduction

Subchondral cystic lesions of the medial femoral condyle may be a source of lameness, resulting in poor performance, and can negatively influence buyers' decisions on horses sold at public auction.

2. Materials and Methods

Horses with subchondral cystic lesions of the medial femoral condyle were identified on survey radiographs prior to public auction or during lameness examination. Fifty-seven horses met inclusion criteria and were 10–26 months of age. The surgical procedure involved curettage of and placement of an absorbable implant in the cyst under radiographic guidance. Follow-up lameness and radiographic

examinations were performed at 1, 2, 3, and 4 months postoperatively.

3. Results

There was an 80% radiographic reduction in the size of the cyst in 53/57 horses (92%). For the cases with lameness follow up, 47/48 horses (97.9%) were sound up to 4 months after surgery. Two cases required repeat operation due to implant migration.

4. Discussion

The surgical technique described here may be a useful option for the management of subchondral cystic lesions of the medial femoral condyle in juvenile horses. The multicenter nature and some subjective assessments have inherent limitations.

Research Abstract—for more information, contact the corresponding author

NOTES

Acknowledgments

Declaration of Ethics

The Authors have adhered to the Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics of the AVMA.

Conflict of Interest

The Authors have no conflicts of interest.