

ENDOSCOPIC DIAGNOSIS OF RECURRENT AIRWAY OBSTRUCTION IN HORSES

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Respiratory diseases in horses are common, due to the increasing population of this species. Respiratory diseases rank second among the causes that reduce performance horses. Respiratory diseases are also a major problem for practitioners of veterinary medicine. The main diagnosis is in skillful combination of data collected from the medical history of the animal, the full clinical trial results and the use of additional methods.

Horses often suffer from chronic respiratory disease, including recurrent airway obstruction. The close anatomical and physiological relationship of the respiratory and cardiovascular causes similar clinical symptoms of their disease. Chronic respiratory diseases are the cause of increased resistance in the pulmonary circulation because pathology may be complicated by degenerative changes in the heart and heart failure.

Development of methods of visual diagnostics used in humane medicine, they were also introduced to study the airways in horses.

Some diseases can be diagnosed only through endoscopy during the movement of the animal. Currently diagnostic purposes is increasingly used bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL), tracheal aspiration (AT). Endoscopy allows the airways to visualize the upper airways, trachea and bronchi.

Recurrent airway obstruction (RAO) – a disease of older horses, characterized by bronchospasm, hypersecretion of mucus, neutrophilic mucosal inflammation and airway hyperresponsiveness, intolerance to exercise. The main cause of the disease in horses is the presence of moldy hay in a place where animals contain.

The aim was to show informative bronchoscopy for the diagnosis of recurrent airway obstruction in horses. The material for the study were 11 horses of different breeds and sexes, aged 7 to 20 years.

The indications for bronchoscopy horses were coughing, especially during exercise, muco-purulent nasal discharge, a persistent dyspnea, fever, reduced performance and intolerance to physical activity.

Contraindications to perform bronchoscopy was cardiovascular failure (low cardiac output, arrhythmia) and anemia of various origins.

Recurrent airway obstruction is a common disease in horses older than 7 years of age and registered in 10.8% of animals kept indoors.

The causes of the disease have poor ventilation, irregular stall cleaning, cleaning of horses stall, hay storage on the premises where horses are kept. Contributing factors in the development of recurrent airway obstruction in horses were stress, enhanced training, transportation, parasitic infestation, especially viral respiratory infections. However, the main etiological factor was dusty and moldy hay litter. Mainly in the pathogenesis of the disease are hypersensitivity reaction to specific antigens present in moldy hay.

The introduction of the practice of veterinary medicine diagnostic imaging methods made it possible to conduct the study of the respiratory tract in horses. Endoscopy of the lower respiratory tract is an informative method of diagnosis of recurrent airway obstruction in horses.

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