Guttural Pouch Mycosis

A mycotic infection of the guttural pouch of the horse is known as the guttural pouch mycosis (GPM). It is a fungal infection of the guttural pouch that causes severe dysphagia, epistaxis, and unilateral nasal discharge. The disease is caused by the fungus Aspergillus flavus and is characterized by the formation of fungal plaques on the mucosal lining of the guttural pouch. These plaques can cause significant damage to the mucosa, leading to severe inflammation and even perforation of the pouch.

The disease is most commonly found in older horses, particularly in those that have been exposed to wet environmental conditions. It is also more common in horses that have been subjected to stress or trauma, such as those that have been involved in accidents or that have suffered from other forms of injury.

The diagnosis of GPM is typically made through a combination of clinical signs, laboratory tests, and imaging studies. Treatment options include the use of antifungal medications, antibiotics, and surgery. However, the prognosis for horses with GPM is generally poor, and the disease can be difficult to control.

References:
Preservation of Rare Horse Breeds

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Preservation of Rare Horse Breeds

Management Challenges for the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program

Management of wild horses and burros livesting in the Western US is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). While concern for overpopulation of these species exists, conservation of genetic diversity remains critical. Many of these animals are being managed in the wild, with little or no direct human intervention. However, the genetic diversity of these populations is at risk due to factors such as natural selection, genetic drift, and founder effects. These factors can lead to a loss of genetic variation, which can have detrimental effects on the survival and adaptation of these populations.

In the United States, the BLM is responsible for managing wild horses and burros on federal lands. The BLM's goal is to maintain a sustainable population of these animals while ensuring their genetic diversity. To achieve this goal, the BLM engages in various management strategies, including roundups, mustangs, and burros are captured, and data are collected on their genetics, behavior, and health. This information is used to inform management decisions and ensure the genetic health of these populations.

The BLM's efforts to manage wild horses and burros in the wild are focused on maintaining a sustainable population while also preserving the genetic diversity of these species. This involves a combination of scientific research, monitoring, and management strategies to ensure the long-term survival and health of these animals.
Preservation of Rare Horse Breeds

A total of 13 cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis were reported in the USA, the majority in Florida. The BLM and the USA reported cases of West Nile Viral infections in the BLM and USA respectively.

Equine encephalitis was reported in six of the regions in the BLM.

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Guttural Pouch Mycosis

A guttural dysfunction is one of many causes of poor performance in equine athletes. Acute dysfunctions can be identified as either acquired or developmental. One acquired dysfunction that is associated with a guttural pouch, known as guttural pouch mycosis (GPM), has continued to emerge in the United States, particularly in the southeast, and can be considered for comparison to conditions that are acquired post mortem and are associated with a guttural pouch mycosis. The condition can lead to a variety of clinical signs, including dysphagia or other neurological deficits, as well as possible hemorrhage from the internal carotid, occipital, or maxillary arteries.

GPM is an inflammatory disease of the guttural pouch, which results from the invasion of fungal pathogens into the mucosa of the pharynx. The disease is characterized by a variety of symptoms, including dysphagia or other neurological deficits. GPM is most commonly found in horses of all ages, including young foals and older horses, and can be found in horses of all breeds, including Thoroughbreds, Quarter Horses, and Standardbreds. The condition is typically found in horses with a history of prolonged treatment with antimicrobial agents, an immunocompromised host, or an environment that promotes fungal growth.

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Medical treatment of GPM with systemic and topical antifungal medications is recommended. Topical treatment options include the use of topical antifungal treatments such as nystatin or amphotericin B. Systemic treatment options include the use of systemic antifungal treatments such as itraconazole or fluconazole.

The success of GPM treatment depends on the severity of the infection, the host's immune response, and the type of fungal pathogen involved. In cases of severe GPM, surgical intervention may be necessary to remove infected tissue and prevent further spread of the disease.

In addition to medical treatment, it is important to manage the horse's environment to prevent the recurrence of GPM. This may include the use of good hygiene practices, such as regular cleaning and disinfection of the horse's environment.

References:
Guttural Pouch Mycosis

A serious dysfunction is one of many causes of poor performance in equine athletes. Among these dysfunctions can be attributed to the guttural pouch, known as guttural pouch mycosis (GPM). GPM has been documented in various parts of the world, particularly in the southeastern United States, where it is associated with the fungus Aspergillus fumigatus. Other fungal infections such as Fusarium spp. have also been reported. GPM is generally overlooked and can be found in the upper respiratory tract of the animal, with the pharyngeal branches of the vagus, glossopharyngeal, and/or hypoglossal nerves. The disease is characterized by the development of lesions in the guttural pouch, resulting in the presence of dysphagia or other neurological deficits.

**Diagnosis**

The diagnosis of GPM is often difficult and requires a high index of suspicion. Symptoms of GPM include difficulty swallowing, hemiplegia (partial or total paralysis of the head), dysphagia, labored breathing, and coughing. The presence of dysphagia is a critical sign associated with GPM, as it can be easily overlooked or misdiagnosed as a simple nosebleed (epistaxis). The presence of dysphagia or other neurological deficits indicates a poor prognosis.

**Treatment**

The treatment of GPM involves both medical and surgical options. While there are reports of successful medical treatments, the preferred method to treat GPM is generally considered to be less efficacious than surgical treatment. Medical treatments include oral and intravenous antibiotics, antifungal medications, and systemic corticosteroids. In some cases, surgery may be necessary to remove fungal plaques or erosion of the guttural pouch mucosa. The use of intravascular coils on X-ray can quickly cut off the blood supply (Figure 2). The preferred method to treat GPM is surgical treatment. The presence of dysphagia or other neurological deficits indicates a poor prognosis.

**Prevention**

Preventing GPM involves the identification and treatment of underlying causes, such as poor nutrition, immune suppression, and the use of corticosteroids. The use of antifungal medications can also be an effective preventive measure. In addition, the use of corticosteroids as a preventative measure is not recommended.

**Conclusion**

Guttural pouch mycosis is a serious condition that can have a significant impact on the performance of equine athletes. Early diagnosis and treatment are crucial for the successful management of GPM.

**References**

1. McGee Critical Care and Medical Center (2019). Guttural Pouch Mycosis. Available at: [link].

**Contact**

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