

PREVALENCE AND ANATOMICAL DISTRIBUTION OF EQUINE GASTRIC ULCERATION SYNDROME (EGUS) IN 190 HORSES IN LITHUANIA

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Abstract. Equine gastric ulceration syndrome (EGUS) was first described in 1986 and is common in all horses, particularly in those involved in various disciplines, resulting in decreased performance and economic loss. The prevalence and severity of EGUS have been correlated with type of training and management practices. Gastric ulcers have been loosely associated with a range of clinical signs in adult horses. In 2014 were offered disease differentiation by lesion localization in glandular (EGGD) or squamous (ESGD) part of the stomach, number of studies showed that differently localized lesions are caused by different reasons.

Objectives: To investigate the prevalence and anatomical distribution of EGUS in a population of Lithuanian horses and association between stomach lesion and anatomical location in the stomach.

Study design: the two stages study was performed in 2017 to review 2008-2017 examined animals in Large animal clinic and in 2016 in slaughterhouse during students master thesis.

Methods. A total of 190 horses from the Large Animal Clinic (LAC) and a slaughterhouse were examined to determine the prevalence of EGUS, association between stomach lesion and anatomical location and analyse the influence of risk factors amongst Lithuanian horses in 2008 – 2017 period. LAC patients were examined endoscopically, while horses from slaughterhouse were macroscopically evaluated post-mortem.

Conclusions. It was observed that the highest severity score of stomach ulcers appeared on both parts of the stomach mucous. Data is insignificant ($P > 0.05$), but tendency is evident.

Keywords: Horse, EGUS, EGGD, ESGD, Glandular, Squamous, Stomach