

ULTRASONOGRAPHIC FINDINGS IN HORSES WITH COMPLETE OR PARTIAL TEARS OF THE *MANICA FLEXORIA*

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Lesions on the *manica flexoria* (MF) are a tenoscopic finding in horses with noninfected tenosynovitis of the digital flexor tendon sheath associated with lameness. The objective of this retrospective study is to describe the ultrasound (US) findings in horses with tenoscopic confirmation of a partial or a complete MF tear. Medical records of horses with a suspected abnormality of the MF at US and submitted to tenoscopy were reviewed. Horses with an US diagnosis of deep digital flexor tendon tear and synovial membrane thickening at the level of the MF but no MF tear suspected at US and/or confirmed at tenoscopy were excluded. Four horses corresponded to selection criteria. All horses had been admitted for digital flexor tendon sheath swelling associated to lameness. Three horses were affected on a hindlimb, 1 on a forelimb. Three horses had a partial tear, one a complete tear. The main US finding detected at the static US weight-bearing examination in the 3 horses with partial tear was an asymmetrical MF appearance, with an asymmetrical synovial membrane thickening at the inner surface, or an asymmetrical loosened aspect of the MF at the level of the junction with the superficial digital flexor tendon (SDFT), or an incomplete visualisation of the MF. At the static examination in flexion, a displacement of the SDFT toward one side was noted. In the horse with a complete tear, on the hindlimb, the ruptured edges of the MF were seen floating in the synovial fluid at the US examination in flexion. In all cases an abnormal relative sliding of the flexor tendons was seen at the dynamic US examination during flexion/extension, with displacement of the SDFT on one side and appearance of an anechoic gap between the flexor tendons during flexion. Although their US diagnosis is considered challenging, specific US features characterize MF tears. US examination of the affected limb in flexion and dynamic US examination are essential for a definitive US diagnosis.

Keywords: horse; *manica flexoria*; tear; ultrasonography.