USE OF CRYOTHERAPY COMBINED WITH ULTRASOUND THERAPY IN THE TREATMENT OF HORSE TENDON INJURIES
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The purpose of this study was to assess the effectiveness of combining cryotherapy with ultrasound therapy to aid the healing process in the treatment of horse tendon injuries by using CRYOULTRASOUND EQUINE.

Since very little has been written on this subject, the treatment protocol applied in human sports medicine, where this equipment is already widely used, was experimentally adapted. The intention of this short paper is not purely scientific (due, in part, to the limited number of cases analysed) but, above all, to inform equine veterinarians and people who work with horses about the impressions and results deriving from use of this new equipment.

Cryoultrasound Equine was used in three separate cases of superficial digital flexor tendon injury with very encouraging results.

Below are the details of the case in which the injury appeared most serious. Please note that the same protocol for the case described was also applied to the other two subjects.

Case A -
Purebred Arabian used for racing (winner of group races).

The subject had a significant injury to the proximal third of the superficial digital flexor tendon which occurred during a training race (fig. 1).
It was decided to treat the horse for a period of 30 consecutive days applying the head of the Cryoultrasound Equine machine directly to the tendon and moving it slowly and continuously on the surface of the injury to which a generous quantity of ultrasound gel had previously been applied.

The intensity used was 0.5 Watts/cm, the pulse emissions were continuous, the temperature was set at -1°C and the duration of the sessions was 10 minutes each.

From the time the injury was discovered, the horse was administered two doses of Flunixyne Meglumine on the first two days and then no other medication until the end of the treatment.

The subject was led around at a walk for 5 minutes twice a day for the first 15 days of treatment (begun 48 hours after discovery of the injury), then a 3-minute swimming session per day was added until day 30.

The ultrasound results obtained at the end of the period were surprising (fig. 2).
As well as the macroscopic appearance of the tendon returning to normal, the injury healed in a much shorter time than achieved during the therapies normally applied for this type of injury.

The horse gradually began training again 30 days after the accident and started galloping again after 60 days, confirming the very fast recovery time. The final check-up carried out after two months showed no relapses or new injuries to the treated tendon.

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