

## DIAGNOSTIC APPROACHES TO EQUINE BACK PROBLEMS

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### Introduction

Back pain and dysfunction of the back are common problems in equine practice and are often considered to be a cause of poor performance in athletic horses. The aim of this study was to investigate the value of different diagnostic tools in addition to the clinical

exam. Included were scintigraphy, ultrasonography and radiography. This poster describes the results of radiography of the equine back. A copy of the complete study can be ordered by email.

### Comparison of conventional film-screen radiography and computed radiography (CR) of the facet joints of the equine thoracolumbar spine

Seven horses were used to produce conventional and digital (CR) radiographs with sufficient diagnostic quality of the facet joints of the thoracolumbar spine region.

### Conclusions

With both methods it is possible to make radiographs of the equine facet joint with sufficient diagnostic quality to investigate the facet joints of horses. Good equipment and high exposures are necessary due to the size of the patient.

### Evaluation of radiation exposure to staff while making radiographs of the equine back

Scatter radiation ( $\mu\text{Sv}$ ) was measured at different locations while making radiographs of the equine thoracolumbar spine.

### Conclusions

The highest scatter radiation dose was measured at the same side as the x-ray tube (the place of the veterinarian). Behind a leaded apron the radiation dose was markedly reduced. The best place for the assistant to stand is in front of the horse on the same side as the cassette.