

## INFARCTIVE PURPURA HEMORRHAGICA WITH SEVERE ANAEMIA

KUTASI ORSOLYA AND ARI KRISZTINA

SZENT ISTVAN UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF VETERINARY SCIENCE, CLINIC FOR LARGE ANIMALS, HUNGARY.

KUTASI.ORSOLYA@AOTK.SZIE.HU



### Introduction

A severe form of purpura hemorrhagica is characterized by leukocytoclastic vasculitis in numerous tissues, sometimes mainly in the muscle tissue, that progress to infarction. Rhabdomyolysis with progressive atrophy can be the result of an immune-mediated process or can be caused also by the bacteraemia itself <sup>(1)</sup>. There is one report which describes iron deficiency anaemia associated with purpura hemorrhagica, but severe anaemia without iron deficiency has never been described in connection with myopathy following *Streptococcus equi* infection <sup>(2)</sup>.

### History and clinical examination

Our patient arrived from a farm with a history of recent *Str. equi* infections. Respiratory symptoms, fever, muscle swelling of the head, abdomen, limbs and stiff gait developed at the same time. The horse also had petechiae on the gingival mucous. Serum biochemical abnormalities

included seriously elevated creatin-kinase, aspartate-transferase and low albumin. Leukocytosis, neutrophilia, severe anaemia and myoglobinuria were detected. Ultrasonographic examination revealed hypoechoic fluid pockets and strongly changing echogenity within the affected muscles. Acute, severe, purulent vasculitis and necrosis were seen by muscle biopsy.

### Outcome

After 4 weeks administration of procaine-penicillin and dexamethasone the horse recovered and the packed cell volume value also improved. Anaemia could have occurred secondary to the inflammatory process, blood cell loss into tissue spaces or decrease in erythropoetin production.

### References

1. Kaese HJ, Valberg SJ, Hayden DW, Wilson JH, Charlton P, Ames TR, Al-Ghamdi GM. Infarctive purpura hemorrhagica in five horses. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 2005;226:1893-8
2. Zaitoun AM, Ali HS, Abdellal THS. Iron deficiency anemia associating with purpura hemorrhagica (post-strangles complication) disease of horses. *Assiut Vet Med J* 1999;41: 200-207