

NOVEL TREATMENT OF SYMPTOMATIC OSTEOARTHRITIS (OA) IN HORSES

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Osteoarthritis (OA) is a painful, debilitating joint disease with no available cure. Horses suffer from joint osteoarthritis in primarily coffin, fetlock and stifle/carpus joints,

and the incidence being dependent on age, weight, load and breed.

Arthramid Vet (Contura International A/S, Denmark) is a non-particulate homogenous hydrogel being used in soft tissue augmentation for about a decade. It is similar to hyaluronic acid gel in overall structure and tissue compatibility, but with a longer-lasting effect, as it is non-degradable. The gel becomes integrated within the host tissue through a thin vessel-bearing fibrous network.

The hydrogel injections into the horse joints are successful in treating lameness in about 70% of the cases. The effect is not instantaneous, but sets in within several days or weeks. Currently the longest observation for the clinical effect is about 12 months. Histology examinations showed that the gel becomes intimately integrated within the soft tissues herniating into the joint cavity. Clinical experience in more than 50 horses will be presented along with histopathology examinations.

Injections of Arthramid Vet into horse joints (coffin, fetlock and stifle/carpus) suffering from symptomatic OA have a long-lasting effect on lameness. The gel is not being degraded, and hence exerts a promising effect by supporting joint through a protective bulk of soft tissues.