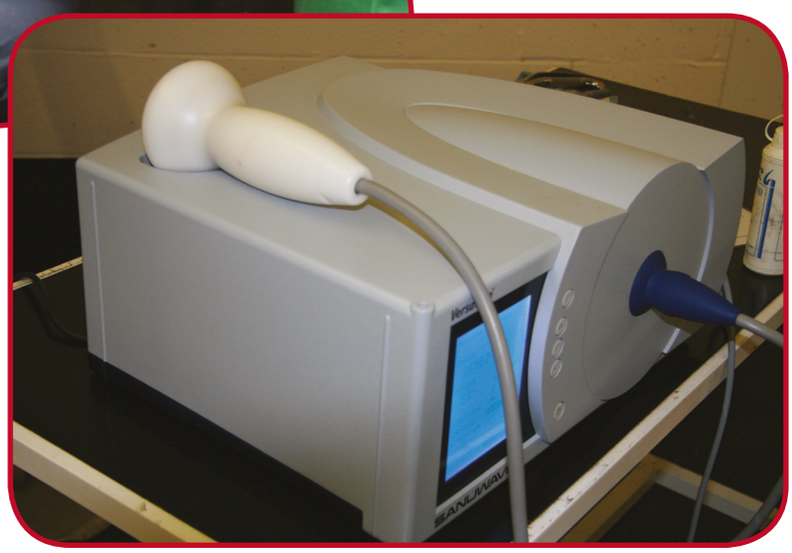
XL Vets Equine

Fact Sheet

Shockwave Therapy

Extra-corporeal shockwave therapy (ESWT) provides a non-invasive approach to the treatment of musculoskeletal disorders in the horse.

Shockwaves are energy-laden sound waves which are directed at the affected area and trigger the body's own repair and healing mechanisms.



Indications for shockwave therapy

ESWT is very useful in the treatment of musculoskeletal disorders which cause pain and lameness in the horse.

Tendon and ligament injuries respond well to shockwave therapy, so it is commonly used in flexor tendon and suspensory ligament sprains.

It may also be useful in osteoarthritic conditions such as spavin, ringbone and navicular syndrome.

Painful back and pelvic conditions may respond positively to ESWT whether they are of an arthritic or muscular / ligamentous origin.

Wounds which are slow healing (indolent wounds) can also benefit from ESWT as it stimulates fine blood vessels and destroys bacteria in the wound site.

KEY POINTS:

- EWST is a non-invasive treatment;
- it stimulates healing in tendons, ligaments and joints;
- it should only be used following accurate veterinary diagnosis;
- treatment may aid wound healing;
- it can be used alongside other therapies.

XLEquine **Shockwave Therapy**

Medical Treatments MT

Treatment

Shockwave therapy should only be used after an accurate diagnosis is made by your vet.

Treatment is performed as an out-patient with the horse mildly sedated in a standing position.

Treatment lasts ten to twenty minutes depending on the condition and will be repeated two to three times, usually at intervals of one to two weeks.

The area to be treated is clipped and cleaned and a suitable contact gel applied.

A probe is applied to the skin which produces sound waves, these penetrate the deeper tissues.

After treatment of a wound, the site is cleaned and a bandage may or may not be applied, depending on the area treated.

There are two types of shockwave therapy called radial and focused; the focused type is thought to be of more effective.

ESWT is thought to be particularly useful in chronic injuries as it turns them into a more 'acute' injury which heals better.

Beneficial effects

- decrease in inflammation;
- new blood vessel formation;
- collection of repair cells at the injury site;
- production of an innate substance which improves the quality of healing;
- stimulates the body to recruit stem cells to become specialised healed tissue;
- short to mid-term localised pain relief.

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XLEquine is a novel and exciting initiative conceived from within the veterinary profession made up of independently owned, progressive veterinary practices located throughout the United Kingdom, members of XLEquine are committed to working together for the benefit of all their clients.

For further information contact your local XLEquine practice:

www.xlequine.co.uk