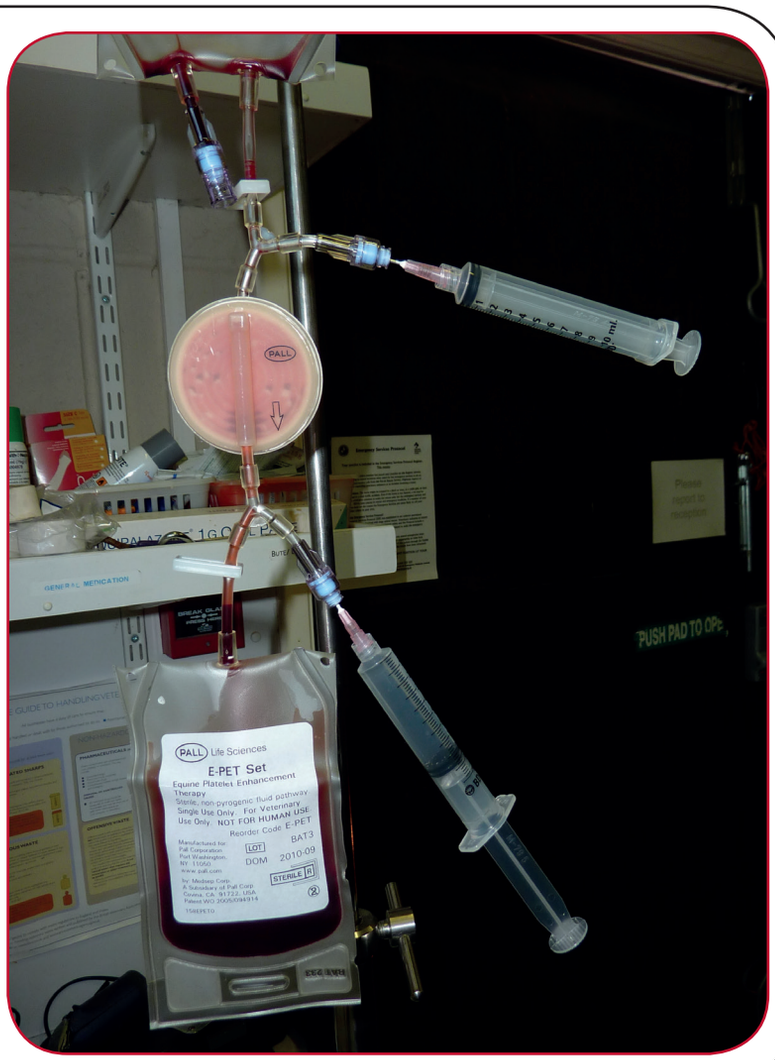
XL Vets Equine

Fact Sheet

Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP)

What is PRP?

Platelet Rich Plasma or PRP is a concentrated solution of a horse's own platelets. Platelets are a type of cell found in the circulation involved in blood clot formation and healing. When injected into damaged tissues, these platelets will release growth factors, which are involved in the healing process. They encourage tissues to re-generate and new blood vessels to grow, which in turn bring oxygen and nutrients to the damaged tissue. It is thought that by this process the body's own natural healing is magnified to achieve better quality tissue repair, giving a better prognosis for future soundness.

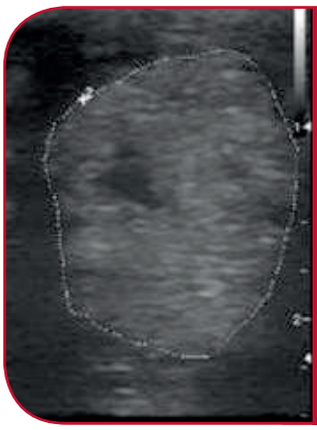


What is PRP used for?

PRP is used to treat a variety of tendon, ligament and joint injuries in horses – any injury involving a space into which platelets can be injected. Some of the most common uses for PRP in horses are:

- suspensory ligament injury, including the branches behind the fetlock
- check ligament injury
- superficial or deep flexor tendon injury
- coffin joint collateral ligament injury
- stifle meniscus tears
- osteoarthritis.

In the future PRP may also be useful in the treatment of wounds, eye ulcers, fractures and many other injuries where optimal healing is required.

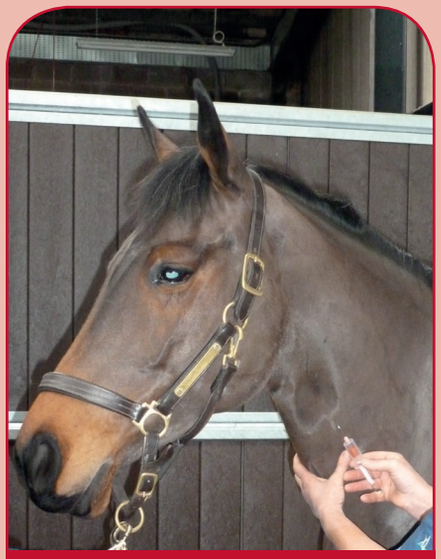


ULTRASOUND SCAN OF A TEAR TO A SUSPENSORY LIGAMENT BRANCH WHICH IS SUITABLE FOR PRP TREATMENT

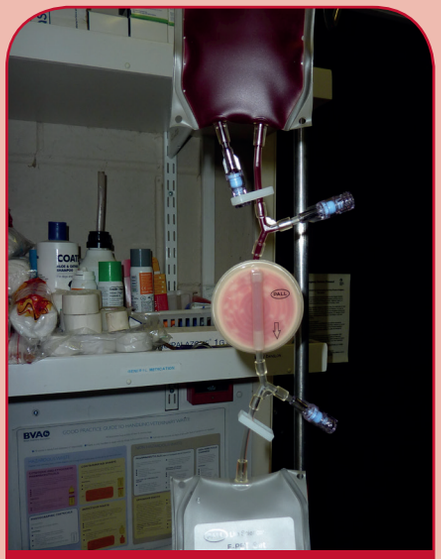
KEY POINTS

- PRP is very safe as it uses a horse's own tissues.
- Natural healing rate is magnified to assist return to exercise and reduce reinjury rate.
- PRP is suitable for use in many tendon, ligament and joint injuries.

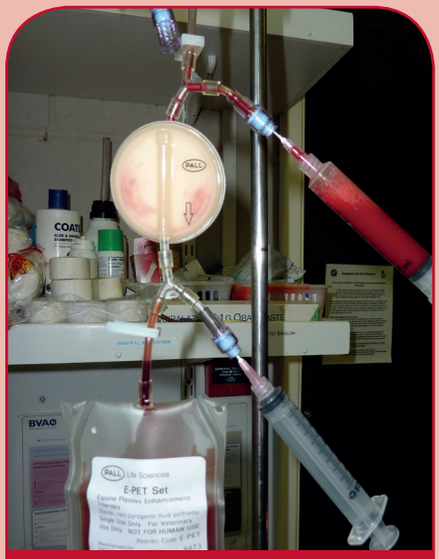
How is it done?



A BLOOD SAMPLE IS COLLECTED FROM THE PATIENT IN A STERILE MANNER



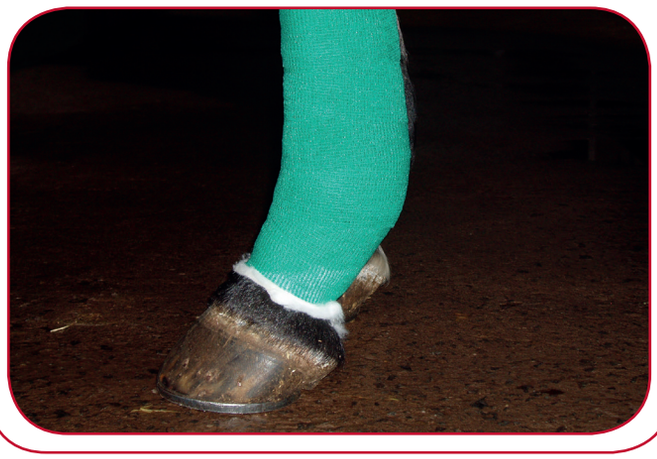
THE PLATELETS ARE HARVESTED FROM THIS SAMPLE ALONG WITH SOME PLASMA FLUID BY EITHER FILTERING OR CENTRIFUGING (SPINNING) THE BLOOD



THIS CREATES THE PLATELET RICH PLASMA

The patient will normally be sedated and the injured area to be injected numbed either using a nerve block or by local infiltration of anaesthetic. The damaged area is visualised using an ultrasound scanner, and a needle inserted, using the scanner to help guide the needle and to confirm correct placement at the site of the injury. The PRP is then injected under sterile conditions

A sterile dressing will be applied to the injected area for one to two days Following injection the horse should be monitored for increased swelling or lameness.



XL Vets Equine

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