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Sonographic findings in horses affected with tendinopathies and associated soft tissue injuries of various joints, from Lahore, Pakistan

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In this study, tendinopathies and other soft tissue injuries were assessed in horses, in Lahore, Pakistan. Forty-eight horses were randomly selected and divided into three equal groups (n=16) i.e. Group A (Race), Group B (Polo) and Group C (Draft-purpose); each group was further subdivided into two equal sub-groups i.e. sound (n=8) and unsound (n=8). Soft tissue structures from various joints including elbow, carpus, fetlock, stifle, hock, and flexor tendons were scanned based on various sonographic parameters, including echogenicity, fiber alignment, severity of injury, soundness via ultrasound and the degree of prognosis, respectively. The results showed that echogenicity of lesions was highly significant ($P \leq 0.014$) in Groups A and B. Fiber alignment was also highly significant for Group B (Polo), followed by Group A (Race Horses), and significant for Group C (Draft-purpose). Severity of injury was highly significant ($P \leq 0.003$) for both Groups A and C. Soundness via ultrasound was highly significant for all three groups ($P \leq 0.002$ for Race and Polo, and $P \leq 0.012$ for Draft Purpose); whereas status of prognosis was highly significant for Group A ($P \leq 0.001$), followed by Groups B and C ($P \leq 0.006$). Conclusively, injuries were more pronounced in Race horses, followed by Polo horses and subsequently Draft purpose horses.

Biography

Shehla Gul Bokhari is a PhD in Veterinary Small Animal Surgery. She additionally has expertise in small animal ultrasonography. She is the first one to launch equine tendon sonography in Pakistan. She holds 13 years of teaching, clinical and research experience. Currently, she works as Assistant Professor, at the Pet Hospital of University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore, Pakistan.

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