

Contents

Foreword.....	iii
Acknowledgments.....	iv
Executive Summary	x
1. Introduction	1
1.1 The Problem of Laminitis.....	1
1.2 Laminitis Research	2
1.3 Key Points	2
2. The Horse's Foot	3
2.1 Foot structure and function.....	4
2.2 Hoof growth	5
2.3 Hoof wall tubules	7
2.4 The corium	8
2.4.1 The coronary corium	9
2.4.2 The lamellar corium - distal phalanx attachment apparatus	9
2.5 Key Points	10
3. Lamellar Anatomy	11
3.1 The lamellae of the inner hoof wall.....	11
3.2 Secondary epidermal lamellae.....	12
3.3 The basement membrane.....	12
3.4 Hemidesmosomes.....	13
3.5 Basal cell cytoskeleton	14
3.6 Hoof wall growth	15
3.7 Lamellar remodeling enzymes	17
3.8 Lamellar metabolism.....	18
3.9 Key Points	18
4. Laminitis in Perspective.....	19
4.1 The laminitis literature	19
4.2 The developmental phase	19
4.3 The acute phase	19
4.4 The chronic phase.....	20
4.5 The Obel grades of lameness.....	21
4.6 Laminitis is a sequel to an event remote from the foot	21
4.7 Grass founder	22
4.8 Grain founder	22
4.9 Alimentary carbohydrate overload model	22
4.10 Use of Virginiamycin to prevent laminitis	24
4.11 Lamellar blood flow etiology	24
4.12 Vasoconstriction theories	24
4.13 Vasodilation theories.....	24
4.14 Vasodilation is associated with laminitis	25
4.15 Key Points	26
5. Laminitis: Current Concepts.....	27
5.1 Introduction	27
5.2 The laminitis process.....	27
5.3 A histological grading system for laminitis.....	29
5.3.1 Grade 1 histological laminitis.....	29
5.3.2 Grade 2 histological laminitis.....	31
5.3.3 Grade 3 histological laminitis.....	32
5.4 Lamellar blood vessels	33
5.5 Laminitis ultrastructure	34
5.6 An enzymatic theory of laminitis	35
5.7 Laminitis <i>in vitro</i>	36

5.8 Laminitis and metalloproteinase enzyme activity	37
5.9 Laminitis causes increased gene transcription of lamellar enzymes	38
5.10 Metalloproteinase inhibitors.....	38
5.11 The search for natural laminitis trigger factors	39
5.12 Key Points	39
6. Insulin and laminitis.....	40
6.1 Changes in insulin metabolism as a trigger for laminitis	40
6.2 Equine metabolic syndrome	40
6.3 Equine Cushing's disease.....	41
6.4 Hyperlipaemia	42
6.5 Supporting limb laminitis	42
6.6 Key Points	42
7. The Clinical Signs of Laminitis	43
7.1 Acute laminitis	43
7.2 Early chronic laminitis	45
7.2.1 Coronary band changes	45
7.2.2 Sole changes.....	45
7.2.3 Hoof wall changes.....	46
7.2.4 Hoof wall lamellar changes.....	47
7.3 Severe chronic laminitis	48
7.4 Conclusions	53
7.5 Key Points	54
8. Radiology of laminitis	55
8.1 Radiographic technique.....	55
8.2 Radiology of acute/early chronic laminitis.....	56
8.3 The rate at which the HDPD increases correlates with the severity of the acute lesion.....	57
8.4 Key points	60
9. Venography of laminitis.....	61
9.1 Introduction	61
9.2 Venographic technique.....	63
9.3 Venography of acute/early chronic laminitis	65
9.4 Digital radiography and venograms	68
9.5 Key Points	68
10. Laminitis Medical Therapy	69
10.1 Laminitis therapy.....	69
10.2 Cryotherapy	69
10.3 Cryotherapy: potential mechanisms for preventing lamellar damage	70
10.4 Efficacy of continuous distal limb cryotherapy for the prevention of acute laminitis	71
10.4.1 Experimental data.....	71
10.4.2 Clinical data.....	72
10.4.3 Application methods.....	73
10.5 Management practices to avoid pasture associated laminitis.	74
10.6 Pasture factors	74
10.7. Horse factors.....	75
10.8 Endotoxaemia therapy	76
10.9 Vasodilator therapy	76
10.10 Free radical scavengers	76
10.11 A recommended treatment strategy	77
10.12 Key Points	77

11. Therapeutic Shoeing.....	78
11.1 Introduction	78
11.2 Mechanical support of the distal phalanx	78
11.3 Foam sole support	78
11.4 The Steward Clog.....	80
11.5 Digital support shoes	82
11.6 The heart-bar shoe (HBS).....	82
11.7 Construction of the heart-bar shoe	83
11.8 Heel elevation.....	85
11.9 The Equine Digit Support System.....	86
11.10 Heart-bar support shoe	87
11.11 Hoof wall resection	89
11.12 Deep flexor tenotomy	90
11.13 Key Points	90
12. Prognosis and Future Directions.....	91
12.1 Future Directions.....	92
12.2 Key Points	92
13. References	93
Appendix 1 Farrier Supplies	96
Clarke Horseshoes Pty Ltd	96
Combined Farrier Supplies.....	96
Grinter Wholesale Trading Pty Ltd	96
Hooftech Pty Ltd	96
Independent Farrier Supplies Pty Ltd.....	96
O’Dwyer Horseshoe Aust Pty Ltd.....	96
Saddlery Wholesalers Pty Ltd	96
Stockmans Supplies Pty Ltd.....	96
Appendix 2	97
RMAX (manufacturer of beaded polystyrene foam products).....	97
Addresses of suppliers:.....	97
Halas Dental Ltd (Coltene Lab Putty).....	97
Addresses and phone/fax numbers of suppliers:	97
Cryotherapy Supplies	97
Grazing Muzzle	97
Veterinary Drugs	97
Appendix 3	98
Publications and presentations associated with this research.....	98
Books and chapters in books	100

Table of figures

Figure 1-1	The gait of a horse with severe laminitis.	1
Figure 2-1	The three bones of the digit are viewed obliquely from the dorsal surface.	3
Figure 2-2	Diagram of a sagittal section of the horse's foot.	4
Figure 2-3	Diagram of the anatomy of the hoof wall.	4
Figure 2-4	Basal cell proliferation in the coronary band.	5
Figure 2-5	The growth zones of the proximal hoof wall (highlighted in red).	6
Figure 2-6	The growth zones (highlighted in red) of the distal wall, white line and sole.	6
Figure 2-7	Transverse section of a pigmented hoof wall (unstained).	7
Figure 2-8	Diagram of the coronary band.	9
Figure 2-9	Diagram of the key structures of the hoof lamellar-distal phalanx attachment apparatus.	10
Figure 3-1	Hoof with its contents removed to show the lamellae of the inner hoof wall.	11
Figure 3-2	The epidermal lamellae of the inner hoof wall.	12
Figure 3-3	The basement membrane at the dermo-epidermal junction.	13
Figure 3-4	Hemidesmosomes at the dermo-epidermal junction.	14
Figure 3-5	Diagram of hemidesmosome, the key structure attaching epidermal basal cells to the basement membrane.	14
Figure 3-6	Diagram of the cytoskeleton of an epidermal basal cell.	15
Figure 3-7	Diagram of hoof wall growth.	16
Figure 3-8	Micrograph showing immunolocalisation of matrix metalloproteinase (MMP-2) in the hoof wall lamellae.	17
Figure 4-1	A horse with acute laminitis shifting weight from one foot to the other.	20
Figure 4-2	Proppase of the distal phalanx through the sole of the foot.	20
Figure 4-3	Sagittal section of a foot with severe chronic laminitis and a large lamellar wedge.	21
Figure 4-4	Micrograph of the leaking hindgut of a horse developing carbohydrate overload laminitis.	23
Figure 4-5	Mean temperatures (\pm standard error) of hooves from laminitis positive, laminitis negative and untreated control horses.	25
Figure 5-1	Micrograph of normal hoof lamellae stained to highlight the basement membrane.	28
Figure 5-2	Grade 1 histological laminitis (H&E stain).	29
Figure 5-3	Grade 1 histological laminitis (PAS stain).	30
Figure 5-4	Grade 2 histological laminitis (PAS stain).	31
Figure 5-5	Grade 3 histological laminitis (immunostain).	32
Figure 5-6	Grade 3 histological laminitis (immunostain).	33
Figure 5-7	Transmission electron micrograph of lamellar SEL at the onset of acute laminitis.	34
Figure 5-8	Transmission electron micrograph of SEL tip at the onset of acute laminitis.	35
Figure 5-9	Zymography of normal lamellar explants.	37
Figure 5-10	Graphs showing MMP-2 gene expression (left) and zymogram of laminitis affected tissue (right).	38
Figure 6-1	Chronically foundered pony showing the typical cresty neck of Equine Metabolic Syndrome. Photo: Don Walsh.	40
Figure 6-2	Ponies with Equine Cushing's Disease fail to shed their hair coats (hirsutism).	41
Figure 7-1	Laminitis stance: forefeet.	43
Figure 7-2	The laminitis gait.	44
Figure 7-3	Coronary band changes due to severe chronic laminitis.	45
Figure 7-4	Sagittal section of the foot of the mare in Figure 7.3.	46
Figure 7-5	Chronically foundered pony with "Aladdin's slipper" feet.	46
Figure 7-6	Kinked, displaced, hoof wall tubules due to severe chronic laminitis.	47
Figure 7-7	Photomicrograph of left fore hoof lamellae 7 days after laminitis induction.	48
Figure 7-8	Venogram of foot with severe chronic laminitis: Case study "Grace".	49
Figure 7-9	Histology of normal coronary band veins (A) and veins affected by severe chronic laminitis (B).	49
Figure 7-10	Computed tomography (CT) arteriograms vs. venograms of the front feet of a horse (Case study "Grace") with severe chronic laminitis.	50
Figure 7-11	The coronary cushions of normal vs. chronic laminitis feet.	50
Figure 7-12	Normal (A) compared to severe, chronic laminitis (B) toe and terminal wall tubules. Normal tubules are straight, parallel and growing downwards in the direction of the arrow.	51
Figure 7-13	The foot of a chronically foundered horse with the hoof removed.	52
Figure 7-14	The distal phalanx of the same chronically foundered horse in Figure 7.13.	52
Figure 7-15	The foot of a horse with severe chronic laminitis of long standing.	53
Figure 8-1	Lateromedial radiograph of a normal foot.	55

Figure 8-2	Horse standing on boxes to align x-ray beam with distal phalanx.	56
Figure 8-3	Severe chronic laminitis: lateromedial radiograph.	56
Figure 8-4	Dissection of the dorsal hoof wall affected by severe acute (early chronic) laminitis.	57
Figure 8-5	Radiograph of a foot with severe, chronic laminitis of 4 weeks duration (same foot as in Figure 8.3).	58
Figure 8-6	Radiographs of normal (A) and chronic laminitis (B) distal phalanx.	59
Figure 8-7	Proximodorsal-palmarodistal ('standing') view of a foot with severe chronic laminitis.	59
Figure 9-1	Lateral venogram of a normal foot made with digital equipment.	61
Figure 9-2	Dorsopalmar venogram of a normal foot made with digital equipment.	62
Figure 9-3	Venogram technique.	63
Figure 9-4	Venogram technique.	64
Figure 9-5	Normal venogram of an adult Standardbred gelding.	65
Figure 9-6	Venogram of the same adult Standardbred gelding in Figure 9.5 made 5 days after acute laminitis developed.	66
Figure 9-7	Venogram of the same adult Standardbred gelding in Figures 9.5 and 9.6 made 28 days after acute laminitis developed.	67
Figure 9-8	Sagittal section (A) and digital venogram (B) of normal toe superimposed (C) to show relationship between distal phalanx and the veins of the dorsal sole and terminal papillae.	68
Figure 10-1	Single limb cryotherapy trial.	71
Figure 10-2	The cryotherapy apparatus consisted of a wooden bath holding water to a level just below the carpus.	73
Figure 10-3	Grazing muzzles limit grass and thus WSC intake by horses at pasture.	75
Figure 11-1	Application of a foam sole support pad.	79
Figure 11-2	Foam sole support pad taped in place to the sole of a foundered foot.	79
Figure 11-3	The foam sandwich that is taped together to form a laminitis sole support pad.	79
Figure 11-4	A home made wooden version of the Steward Clog.	80
Figure 11-5	The two components of Coltene lab putty (appendix 2), a silicone dental impression material, are thoroughly mixed and while still soft applied to the cleaned sole.	81
Figure 11-6	The clog showing the surface depression created to accommodate a dropped sole.	81
Figure 11-7	The heart-bar shoe.	83
Figure 11-8	Fitting the heart-bar shoe (A).	84
Figure 11-9	Fitting the heart-bar shoe (B).	85
Figure 11-10	The Equine Digital Support System.	86
Figure 11-11	Fitting the EDSS Natural Balance Shoe.	87
Figure 11-12	Hand forged heart-bar support shoe.	88
Figure 11-13	Silicone rubber cast of the palmar sole, bars and frog.	88
Figure 11-14	Hoof resection of the coronet and distal toe.	89
Figure 11-15	Foot of the same horse in Fig 11.11 10 weeks after coronary band and toe hoof resection.	89