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Abstract

An experimental model for studying arthritis in horses, consisting on intracarpal administration of LPS at a dose rate of 0.01 μ g/kg, is described. A two-ways cross over design was applied. Evaluated clinical end-points on LPS-treated and control groups were body temperature, stride length, carpal circumference, rest angle flexion and maximal carpal flexion. Statistically significant differences between LPS-treated and control groups were observed between 1 and 48 h post-injection on body temperature and between 2 and 48 h on stride length and maximal carpal flexion. Modifications on carpal circumference, as well as, on rest angle flexion were observed later on time (between 4-48 h and 8-24 h post LPS administration, respectively). Rest angle flexion was the unique parameter returning to baseline values at the end of the study. However, 72 h after LPS-injection none of the animals showed any sequel of the experiment. The present experimental model has not affected animal welfare, being applicable for the study of antiarthritic drugs.

Keywords

Horses, arthritis, synovitis, endotoxin.

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