Abstract

The muscle skeletal lesions in pure bred race horses comprise the majority of lesions found in this species. A total of 24 horses with clinical tendinitis in any of the forelimbs were evaluated by physical examination and afterwards, using an ultrasound scanner in order to determine the correlation between the clinical and ultrasonographic findings. Observed lesions were classified in grades according to the percentage of damaged tendon fibers: Grade I: tendon fiber density diffuse loss; Grade II: presence of an anecoic area comprising less than 50% of tendon transverse area (TTA); Grade III: presence of an anecoic area comprising more than 50% of TTA; Grade IV: 90% or more of the TTA damaged (tendon rupture). Also, the presence of fibrosis was assessed. A positive and significative correlation was observed both between clinical and ultrasonographic findings and between clinical signs and the presence of fibrosis, in all forelimbs’ tendons, suggesting that ultrasound evaluation could establish with higher accuracy the clinical stage and prognosis of the lesion than could physical examination on its own.

Keywords

Equine, forelimbs, tendons, ultrasonography, clinical correlatio