

Aspen Creek Large Animal Clinic  
23605 Oehlmann Park Rd  
Conifer, CO 80433  
(30) 697-4864

January 31, 2008

Dear Harmony Horse Works:

On Thursday January 30, 2008 I re-examined "Magic". I radiographed the left hind pastern and discovered that Magic has an OCD cyst. At this time there are only very minimal signs of arthritic changes within the joint, but there is certainly risk that over time this joint may progressively get worse and develop more serious degeneration. Certainly, performing surgery on the right hind pastern as previously considered may place increased stress on the left hind and speed up this arthritic process. There is also a chance that the left hind will never develop crippling arthritis.

In light of this new information, pursuing surgical arthrodesis should be considered very carefully. I spoke yesterday with Dr. Melinda Story, one of the surgeons at Littleton Large Animal Clinic, regarding this case. She suggested that we consider trying chemical arthrodesis (fusion) of the pastern joint. Chemical arthrodesis would involve injecting an alcohol solution into the pastern joint, which may stimulate cartilage degradation and eventual fusion of the joint. This procedure has been performed in a limited number of hock joints in the horse and showed good success rates, but has not been formally studied in an equine pastern joint. There are concerns that the pastern joint may have too much mobility for the injection to obtain satisfactory fusion, however, Dr. Story and several other veterinarians have tried the procedure and have seen encouraging results so far. The benefits of the chemical arthrodesis are that the procedure is much less costly and invasive, and should it not work or if arthritis develops in the opposite limb, you have not invested as much financial resources into the procedure. The other benefit of the injection technique is that there is considerably less pain involved, reducing but not eliminating the risk of overloading the opposite limb. However, the risks include the fact that this procedure would be considered experimental and there are no good studies to suggest a success rate. The chemical fusion may also take longer than surgical fusion to obtain complete immobility of the joint.

Considering all facts, Aspen Creek Large Animal Clinic could provide the injection, 30 days of post-op care and bandaging, and follow-up radiographs at 30 days for around \$1500-2000. If this is something that you wish to consider, please let me know and we can schedule the procedure at any time.

Sincerely,

Ashleigh Olds, DVM