

C-E.1 Equine Gastrointestinal Diseases and Intensive Care

Credits: 10 (100 hours)

Provider: Veterinary Postgraduate Unit – School of Veterinary Science

RCVS Content Covered

The following outlines the modular content as set out by the RCVS.

At the end of the module, candidates should be able to:

- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the anatomical, physiological, immunological and pathological processes involved in gastrointestinal disease, including the relationships between the alimentary tract and the overall health status of the patient.
- Show familiarity with principles and practical application of equine nutrition.
- Demonstrate understanding of the biology of micro-organisms and parasites that are associated with equine gastrointestinal disease and be able to apply this knowledge to pathogenesis and methods of diagnosis, treatment and control.
- Show thorough familiarity with the clinical presentation, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of diseases of the equine oral cavity, oesophagus, stomach, small and large intestine and peritoneal cavity.
- Demonstrate understanding of the pathogenesis and treatment of endotoxaemia, systemic inflammatory response syndrome and disseminated intravascular coagulation.
- Demonstrate that they have knowledge that underpins the practical competence in critical care of horses and foals with gastrointestinal disease and circulatory collapse of any cause.
- Demonstrate understanding and promote concepts of a problem-orientated approach in horses of all age groups presenting with colic, diarrhoea, weight loss, malabsorption and dysphagia.
- Review and constructively criticise current literature in the subject area, to enable them to determine its relevance to their current practice.
- Utilise their understanding of Evidence Based Medicine and Decision Analysis to develop practical diagnostic and treatment protocols for their patients.
- Use available resources and communicate with owners in such a way as to achieve optimum results in their practice circumstances in relation to gastrointestinal cases.
- Review the outcomes of at least part of their clinical work, using the process of clinical audit to improve performance.
- Recognise when a case is truly unusual, and become familiar with the information resources available to enable them to deal with such cases.
- Recognise when a case is beyond their personal or practice capabilities, and provide an effective channel of referral. Review and constructively criticise current literature in the subject area, to enable them to determine its relevance to their current practice.

Aim of the Module

The aims of this module are to advance your knowledge of disease and disorders involving the gastrointestinal system and their management, including in the intensive care situation.

This module will also incorporate your clinical key skills of evidence based medicine, clinical reasoning, literature review and critique, communication, clinical audit and reflection.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module successful candidates will be able to demonstrate:

1. an in depth knowledge of the principles of equine gastrointestinal disease including the anatomical, physiological, immunological and pathological processes involved;
2. an ability to systematically evaluate the interrelationship between management, endoparasitism and other epidemiological factors and the risk factors for gastrointestinal disease relevant to your practice location;
3. critical evaluation of the scientific literature supporting common therapeutics in equine gastrointestinal medicine;
4. the ability to apply the principles of equine gastrointestinal disease to the practice situation in the synthesis of appropriate protocols for management for different types of equine gastrointestinal disease;
5. the ability to independently research and critically review the literature to provide evidence to support current or revised protocols for diagnosis or management of equine gastrointestinal disease;
6. the ability to critically review and reflect on clinical work, including identifying potential clinical audit points translating to new protocols or measureable outcomes.

Module Structure

This module is divided into 3 Study Units as outlined below:

Study Unit 1 Principles of Gastrointestinal Disease

- Discuss the anatomical, physiological, immunological and pathological processes involved in equine gastrointestinal disease.
- Discuss the risk factors for gastrointestinal disease including endoparasites. Discuss the principles of fluid therapy in gastrointestinal disease.
- Discuss equine nutrition and microbiology of the equine gastrointestinal tract.

Study Unit 2 Medical Gastrointestinal Disease

- Discuss the clinical presentation, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of conditions involving the gastrointestinal tract including acute and chronic diarrhoea, dental disorders, choke and dysphagia, gastric ulceration and chronic weight loss syndromes.
- Discuss the approach to the gastrointestinal system incorporating the processes of clinical reasoning and evidence based practice.

Study Unit 3 Surgical Colic and Intensive Care

- Discuss analgesia in the equine colic patient.
- Discuss anaesthetic considerations in the equine surgical colic. Discuss antimicrobial use in colic surgery.
- Discuss intensive care of the equine patient including post operative care of the colic patient (fluid therapy, electrolyte/acid-base disorders and colloid therapy) and intensive care of the SIRS patient.
- Critically appraise literature relevant to the gastrointestinal system and discuss how the literature can be used to inform practice.
- Review and reflect on your clinical work, including identifying potential clinical audit points translating to new protocols or measureable outcomes, recognising the truly unusual case and when a case is beyond your personal or practice capabilities.

Assessment Strategy

4 x short answer question and/or MCQ tests, 1 x reflective case/essay at the end of the module (2000 words) and 1 x journal critique/journal club presentation (pass/fail)