Current Joint Therapy Usage in Equine Practice: Changes in the Last 10 Years

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Differences in the use of various joint therapies were observed over time. While some observations are in agreement with the scientific evidence, others are not fully concordant with the current literature. Authors’ addresses: Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843 (Zanotto); Department of Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523 (Frisbie); e-mail: David.frisbie@colostate.edu.
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1. Introduction
There has been substantial growth in the understanding of osteoarthritis and in the development of novel therapies over the past few years. The aim of the present study was to compare the use of various joint therapies over the past 10 years.

2. Materials and Methods
An electronic survey was administered to American Association of Equine Practitioners members. Questions from a similar survey administered 10 years ago were repeated, and new questions were added. The responses were tabulated, analyzed, and compared to those of the previous survey.

3. Results
Methylprednisolone acetate was significantly less commonly used for high-motion joints than previously reported (odds ratio = 2.39, p < 0.001). The likelihood of respondents having used autologous conditioned serum was almost 3 times higher now (odds ratio = 2.97, p < 0.001). There is an increased use of concomitant antibiotic therapy with intra-articular medication.

4. Discussion
Triamcinolone acetonide remains the most commonly used therapy to treat high-motion joints. The use of methylprednisolone acetate to treat high-motion joints has significantly decreased, which is likely associated with its reported harmful effect on cartilage. The use of biological therapies in joints has become more popular, which could be associated with recent supportive scientific evidence and increased availability of these products on the market. The increased use of antibiotics with intra-articular therapy is not in agreement with the current literature’s recommendations.

Research Abstract—for more information, contact the corresponding author

NOTES
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Declaration of Ethics

The Authors have adhered to the Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics of the AVMA.

Conflict of Interest

The Authors have no conflicts of interest.