Enostosis-Like Lesions in 79 Horses

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Enostosis-like lesions (ELLs) were found to be more common in Thoroughbreds and predominantly involved the tibia and radius. Lameness was attributable to the ELLs in 49% of cases and was directly associated with intensity of radiopharmaceutical uptake. Authors’ address: University of Pennsylvania, 382 West Street Road, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania 19342; e-mail: ahern@vet.upenn.edu. © 2010 AAEP.

1. Introduction
A paucity of epidemiological information regarding enostosis-like lesions (ELLs) prompted this study. We evaluated a large group of horses with ELLs and documented the clinical and epidemiological features, allowing for more accurate future prognostication.

2. Materials and Methods
Medical records of horses with a scintigraphic diagnosis of ELLs between 1997 and 2009 were reviewed. The history and physical, scintigraphic, radiological, and lameness examination results were tabulated. Region of interest analysis of ELLs was performed. Race records were obtained, and telephone interviews were performed. Descriptive statistics, logistic regression, Kruskal-Wallis rank tests, or Spearman’s rank correlations were used.

3. Results
ELLs were more common in Thoroughbred and less common in Standardbred horses. Older horses were more likely to have ELLs. Lameness was directly attributable to a scintigraphically evident ELL in 49% of horses. The most common anatomical locations were the tibia (39.5%) and radius (29.3%). Humeral ELLs caused more pronounced lameness than ELLs in other locations. There was a positive association between increased intensity of radiopharmaceutical uptake and increasing lameness score. Racehorses with multiple ELLs during a single scintigraphic examination were less likely to race after diagnosis than those with a solitary ELL.

4. Discussion
This evaluation of a large group of horses with ELLs identifies factors allowing for a better understanding of this disease process and may allow for improved prognostication.