
Joanna Virgin, DVM; Laurie Goodrich, DVM, Diplomate ACVS*; and Gary Baxter, DVM, Diplomate ACVS

1. Introduction
The purpose of this study was to determine the incidence of support limb laminitis among horses treated with half-limb, full-limb, or transfixation pin casts and to determine potential risk factors. This study provides guidance regarding how commonly support limb laminitis develops in surgical cases requiring a cast and further confirms important predictive risk factors associated with the development of support limb laminitis.

2. Materials and Methods
Medical records of 113 horses treated with half-limb, full-limb, or transfixation pin casts at an equine referral hospital from 2000 to 2009 were examined. Associations between potential risk factors and the development of support limb laminitis were evaluated by bivariable and multivariable logistic regression analyses.

3. Results
Of the 113 horses that received casts, 14 (12%) developed confirmed support limb laminitis. The body weight of the horse and duration of casting in weeks were significantly associated with support limb laminitis. Horses requiring full-limb casts or transfixation casts were more likely to develop this complication than horses requiring half-limb casts. There were no significant associations between developing support limb laminitis and weight-bearing capacity on presentation to the hospital, the limb affected (fore or hind), or breed of horse.

4. Discussion
Support limb laminitis is a relatively common complication among horses treated with half-limb, full-limb, and transfixation pin casts. Greater durations of casting and higher body weights increase the likelihood of developing this complication.