

Imaging of the Equine Head

The equine head is a complex anatomical structure with a myriad of bones and air filled cavities.

Sinonasal and dental diseases are very common disease and they can be a serious disorder in horses due to the persistence of the former and the common extension of the latter disease to the supporting bones of the skull.

When injured, the temporomandibular joints (TMJ) and related structures (middle and inner ear) can be responsible of serious clinical signs in horses like pain, swelling an asymmetry of the face.

The diagnosis of equine sinonasal, dental and TMJ disease can be challenging due to the complexity of these and adjacent anatomical structures.

Radiography is an important ancillary modalities in the diagnosis of equine head disease; however newer imaging modalities such as scintigraphy, CT and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) are increasingly recognised as being of great value in improving the diagnosis and identifying the cause of equine sinonasal, dental and TMJ disorders. The lecture will cover the diagnostic imaging findings in horses affected with head pathologies, in particular affecting the paranasal sinuses, teeth, TMJ and skull.