

## EXTERNAL SKELETAL FIXATION FOR TENDON REPAIR IN EQUINES

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### SUMMARY

Healing after tenorrhaphy of transected flexors in combination with external skeletal fixation of the metacarpophalangeal joint in 8 equine species (6 donkeys and 2 horses) was evaluated clinically, ultrasonography and histologically for 3 months. The external skeletal fixation device was used to induce mild flexion of the metacarpophalangeal joint to the degree that keeping the apposition of the sutured tendon without tension until healing.

#### Key words:

Tendon, tenorrhaphy, external skeletal fixation, single locking suture

### INTRODUCTION

Traumatic flexor tendon disruptions are a major problem in equids specially those exposing to mechanical damage by road accidents or wire cuts or by degenerative changes resulting from continued stress (Fackelman, 1973; Stromberg and Tufvesson, 1977).

Clinical evidence of flexor tendons injuries usually has variable degrees of locomotor dysfunction , signs of local inflammation, tendon disruption and dropping of the fetlock (Goodship et al., 1992; Barr et al., 1995; Gibson et al., 1997). Many clinical studies have been conducted on treatment of tendon injuries (McCullage et al., 1979; Valdez et al., 1980; Spurlock, 1989; Jann et al., 1990; Bertone et al., 1990; Taylor et al., 1995;