

UNILATERAL RUPTURE OF THE SERRATUS VENTRALIS MUSCIE IN A FILLY

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A 3 years old Arabian filly was brought to the veterinary department of the Race and Equestrian Club in Doha, Qatar, suffering from abnormal bulging of the proximal edge of the scapula of the left fore limb and walking caused abnormal mobility of the shoulder. The filly afflicted with such an injury after a collision with another horse whilst exercising at the racetrack.

Examination revealed marked bulging of the proximal edge of the scapula of the left fore limb. Walking provoked very marked lateral instability of the scapula and apparently accompanied by a mild degree of discomfort. Weight bearing on the affected limb was however normal. (Fig. 1).

Sagittal plane scans ultrasonography were made using a diagnostic real time linear scanner 450 (Pie Medical) over the affected area and precisely at the proximal edge of the affected scapula. The other corresponding sound right scapula was similarly examined. Ultrasonography identified an area of hypoechogenicity under the scapula representing the seat of serratus ventralis muscle insertion. This hypoechogenicity suggested rupture of the serratus ventralis muscle and accumulation of inflammatory fluid in the affected structures (Figs. 2 & 3).

Diagnosis:

From the etiology, signs and ultrasonography of the case, the filly has suffered severe trauma to the supporting structures of the left forelimb.



Fig.(1): The left shoulder of the filly showing pronounced bulging of the proximal edge of the scapula