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### Case Reports - Equine Hind Limb Lameness

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## Brief Notes on Severe Hind Lameness Cases ~ Stacie G. Boswell, DVM

### Rupture of the ligamentum teres

- History: Trauma may or may not have been observed. Lameness NSAID-responsive (at least initially), but worsens over time.
- Clinical Signs: Hind muscle atrophy, affected limb rotated (toe pointing) laterally/outward, patella seems more lateral than expected, crepitus
  - o Coxofemoral joint may subluxate or luxate without ligamentous support (point of hock may then appear “higher” on affected side)
  - o Acute – would see swelling over hip
- Differentials:
  - o Luxating patella (usually lateral, horse appears “crouched”)
  - o Upward fixation of the patella (UFP, stifle is locked in extension)
  - o Fracture – bony remodeling and DJD if articular
    - Pelvic fracture affecting acetabulum
    - Femoral fracture affecting head
- Diagnostics: Radiographs, arthrocentesis (hemarthrosis)
- Prognosis: Poor. Smaller horses may be treated with femoral head ostectomy, gait deficit always present.

*Refs: 1) O'Brien, What's your diagnosis? Femoral head articular fragment. May 2012 JAVMA 2) Ross & Dyson Diagnosis and management of lameness in the horse.*

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### Rupture of the peroneus tertius

- Anatomy: Peroneus tertius (PT) is part of reciprocal apparatus. Lateral condyle of femur to third tarsal & metatarsal
- History: Trauma may or may not have been observed. Also: full hind limb cast, laceration, limb entrapment.
- Clinical Signs: Varying degrees of pain & swelling depending on nature & chronicity of injury.
  - o Pathognomonic: Characteristic dimple in the contour of the caudal distal aspect of the crus; extension of hock with stifle flexion; typical gait deficit (unable to flex hock)
- Diagnostics: Radiographs (may have avulsion of attachment if injury is at origin), ultrasound (serial monitoring)
- Prognosis: Fair. 78% returned to function. Laceration involving synovial structure decreases prognosis

*Refs: 1) Koenig et. al., Rupture of the peroneus tertius tendon in 27 horses. 2005 Can Vet J 2) Peloso, Auer & Stick Equine Surgery 4<sup>th</sup> ed., ch. 84.*