

C-E.1 Equine Gastrointestinal Diseases and Intensive Care

Credits: 10 (100 hours)

Provider: Veterinary Postgraduate Unit – Institute of Veterinary Science

RCVS Content Covered

The following outlines the modular content as set out by the RCVS.

At the end of the module, candidates should be able to:

- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the anatomical, physiological, immunological and pathological processes involved in gastrointestinal disease, including the relationships between the alimentary tract and the overall health status of the patient.
- Show familiarity with principles and practical application of equine nutrition.
- Demonstrate understanding of the biology of micro-organisms and parasites that are associated with equine gastrointestinal disease and be able to apply this knowledge to pathogenesis and methods of diagnosis, treatment and control.
- Show thorough familiarity with the clinical presentation, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of diseases of the equine oral cavity, oesophagus, stomach, small and large intestine and peritoneal cavity.
- Demonstrate understanding of the pathogenesis and treatment of endotoxaemia, systemic inflammatory response syndrome and disseminated intravascular coagulation.
- Demonstrate that they have knowledge that underpins the practical competence in critical care of horses and foals with gastrointestinal disease and circulatory collapse of any cause.
- Demonstrate understanding and promote concepts of a problem-orientated approach in horses of all age groups presenting with colic, diarrhoea, weight loss, malabsorption and dysphagia.
- Review and constructively criticise current literature in the subject area, to enable them to determine its relevance to their current practice.
- Utilise their understanding of Evidence Based Medicine and Decision Analysis to develop practical diagnostic and treatment protocols for their patients.
- Use available resources and communicate with owners in such a way as to achieve optimum results in their practice circumstances in relation to gastrointestinal cases.
- Review the outcomes of at least part of their clinical work, using the process of clinical audit to improve performance.
- Recognise when a case is truly unusual, and become familiar with the information resources available to enable them to deal with such cases.
- Recognise when a case is beyond their personal or practice capabilities, and provide an effective channel of referral. Review and constructively criticise current literature in the subject area, to enable them to determine its relevance to their current practice.

Aim of the Module

The aims of this module are to increase depth of knowledge of diseases and disorders involving the gastrointestinal system and their management, including in the intensive care situation.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module successful candidates will be able to:

1. demonstrate an in depth knowledge of the principles of equine gastrointestinal disease including the anatomical, physiological, immunological and pathological processes involved;
2. demonstrate an ability to systematically evaluate the interrelationship between management, endoparasitism and other epidemiological factors and the risk factors for gastrointestinal disease relevant to your practice location;
3. demonstrate critical evaluation of the scientific literature supporting common therapeutics in equine gastrointestinal medicine;
4. demonstrate the ability to apply the principles of equine gastrointestinal disease to the practice situation in the synthesis of appropriate protocols for management for different types of equine gastrointestinal disease;
5. demonstrate the ability to independently research and critically review the literature to provide evidence to support current or revised protocols for diagnosis or management of equine gastrointestinal disease;
6. demonstrate the ability to critically review and reflect on clinical work, including identifying potential clinical audit points translating to new protocols or measureable outcomes.

Module Structure

Study Unit 1: Principles of Gastrointestinal Disease (5 weeks)

Study Unit 2: Medical Gastrointestinal Disease (4 weeks)

Study Unit 3: Surgical Colic and Intensive Care (7 weeks)

This module will also incorporate the generic skills of evidence based medicine, clinical reasoning, literature review and critique, communication, clinical audit and reflection.

Assessment Strategy

2 x open book examinations using a range of short answer questions, 2 x reflective case reports (1500 words each) and 1 x journal critique/journal club presentation (pass/fail)

PLEASE NOTE: It is your responsibility to ensure that you have access to sufficient appropriate cases where you were the primary decision maker to produce adequate material for the module. This may not be possible with some internship positions. You must also be aware of any limitations of your facilities that may make the accumulation of appropriate cases difficult or impossible.