



Equine Grass Sickness (EGS) Presentation

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Dr Richard Newton's Presentation Glossary:

Mal seco - Translates from Spanish as 'dry sickness' and is a disease recognised in the Patagonia region of South America that is clinically and pathologically identical to equine grass sickness. Dry sickness refers to the longer chronic form of the disease in which horses lose a great deal of body condition.

Equine dysautonomia - Another name for equine grass sickness that is based on the underlying pathology in which the involuntary or autonomic nervous system is predominantly affected and evidence for this can be seen at post mortem investigation.

Rhinitis sicca - A characteristic clinical feature of equine grass sickness in which there is drying and crusting of the inside of the nostrils of the affected animal

Toxico-infectious botulism - A form of the disease botulism which results from the local production of toxin by the bacteria *Clostridium botulinum* within the gut of an affected animal as opposed to ingestion of pre-formed toxin, usually in contaminated food as occurs in classical botulism.

Neurotoxin - A substance that has a toxic or damaging effect against nerves or their function

Antibody - A protein used by the immune system to identify and neutralize foreign objects, including toxins

Toxin-antitoxin mixture - A method of rendering a toxin (usually a protein) safe is by mixing it with a specific antitoxin (usually another protein, such as antibody), which neutralises the damaging effect of the toxin.

Toxoid - A form of vaccine that an inactivated toxin whose toxicity has been suppressed either by chemical or heat treatment

Prevalence - the proportion or percentage of something, often applied to the proportion of a particular population affected by a disease

Odds ratio - A method of quantifying the amount of disease in one group (such as a vaccinated group of animals) relative to a particular baseline group (such as a non-vaccinated group of animals)

Dr Beth Wells' Presentation Glossary:

Biobank: Biological and environmental sample collection from EGS cases and controls, processed, stored and available to any researcher, anywhere in the world, with an EGS research project that requires samples. The EGS biobank is held at the Moredun Research Institute and James Hutton Institute and samples are available on applying to the Equine Grass Sickness Fund.

Interdisciplinary research: Studies involving more than one area of science/knowledge

Autonomic: Involuntary or unconscious relating to the nervous system

Ganglia: collection of neurons (nerve cells) as part of the nervous system

Ileum: Final part of the small intestine, in equines, ending at the junction of the caecum and start of the large intestine

Organoids: A 3D mass of cells or tissues grown in a laboratory from the parent material



Links & Contacts:

[Biobank – Equine Grass Sickness Fund](#)

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