

Arthritis Treatment Handout

So your horse is lame, now what? If you have had a vet exam and established that your horse is suffering from arthritis, it can be disheartening news. However, there are options to help keep your riding partner or pasture pal more comfortable. Listed below are a range of treatment options that you can discuss with your veterinarian to keep your horse living a happy life.

Oral Supplements:

Cosequin- This is the only product proven to have good results. Three versions, Cosequin, Cosequin ASU, Cosequin ASU Plus.

Platinum Performance C/J- Produced by a veterinary practice, good for performance and senior horses. Other options include supplements with: Glucosamine, Chondroitin, MSM, Yucca, devil's claw, turmeric, hyaluronic acid, etc. All these are not guaranteed to be absorbed in your horse's gut, and might not be available for use by your horse.

Pain Management:

Bute (phenylbutazone, NSAID=Non-steroidal anti inflammatory drug)- Cheapest but can be hard on kidney function. Comes in multiple forms including powder, paste, and tablets

Banamine (NSAID)- more for soft tissue pain/colic, can be hard on kidney function

Equioxx (NSAID)- More expensive than bute/banamine but easier on kidney function - ~\$2 a day

Tramadol (Opioid)- Not useful as anti-inflammatory, but could be useful for pain management, off licensed treatment

Acetaminophen (NSAID)- Anti-inflammatory, off licensed treatment, research has shown it may have less side effects than bute and banamine

Voltaren (NSAID)- Topical treatment (human grade), apply multiple times a day (diclofenac) ~\$15 a tube

Surpass (NSAID)- Topical treatment (horse grade), apply less frequently than Voltaren (diclofenac) ~\$100 a tube

Gabapentin (Anti-epileptic)- Inhibits painful neurotransmitters to limit nerve pain, in a pill form

Galliprant (NSAID)- Anti-inflammatory, off license for horses, less side effects, expensive

Pentoxifylline (Vasodilator)- Increases blood flow to the affected area

Isoxsuprine (Vasodilator)- Increases blood flow to the affected area, limited absorption in the gut

Methocarbamol (Muscle relaxant)- muscle pain relief, helps treat back pain associated with foot pain

Other Joint Treatments:

Adequan: 7 shot intramuscular injectable series every 4 days (about 28 day treatment)- (glycosaminoglycans- GAGs) good for cartilage health. ~\$300

Legend: 4 shot intravenous injectable series for joint fluid health (hyaluronic acid)- ~\$500

OsPhos: 1 shot injectable- (bisphosphonate) slows down bone turnover, acts as a low level anti-inflammatory, lasts about a year- helps arthritis slow down.- \$400

Pentosan: (hyaluronic acid, glucosamine, and GAGs, licensed for surgical intra-articular usage). Cheaper off license version of adequan. 7 shot intramuscular injectable series. Good for cartilage and joint fluid health.

Intra-articular Injectables:

Direct therapy products to the joint such as steroids, legend, Hyaluronic Acid, PRP, IRAP, Stem Cells done at 6 monthly to yearly intervals - \$150-1000 (products and location dependent)



Auburn Equine 1507 Grass Valley Highway, Auburn, CA 95603
530-823-0162 www.auburnequine.com auburnequine@gmail.com