

Case 111005-04: A Four Year Old Quarter Horse Gelding Bilateral Osteoarthritis of Front Coffin Joints

On November 2, 2005 a four-year-old Quarter horse gelding presented with a one year history of front limb lameness that had been treated multiple times with steroid injections. The patient was a grade 3/5 lame in the left front; when the left front coffin joint was blocked with carbocaine, the patient went sound at the trot. A series of x-rays were taken which showed changes around the navicular bursa and the distal interphalangeal joint of the left front limb. Severe osteoarthritis was diagnosed and the left front coffin joint was treated with Hylartin. Concerned for the chronicity of the lameness and hoping to regain more long term function for the patient, the attending veterinarian also chose to administer regenerative cell therapy.

On November 9, 2005 a 17.66 grams of subcutaneous adipose tissue was obtained lateral to the gelding's tail head and was sent for collection of regenerative cells. On November 11, 2005 each front coffin joint was injected sterilely with 2.3 million regenerative cells (the right joint was injected as a prophylactic measure). The patient was prescribed stall rest in conjunction with a light turnout for the following two months.

On reevaluation January 5, 2006, the veterinarian detected no lameness at either the walk or trot; flexion tests were negative for both front limbs. At this time light riding was added to the rehabilitation schedule. On January 13, 2006, no lameness was noted in either limb and both joints received a routine injection of Hylartin. On February 8, 2006 the patient continued to exhibit no sign of lameness on a lunge line and was negative with hoof testers. At that time, the gelding was in a full training regimen for reining and had not taken another lame step.

During an April 4, 2006 conversation, the owner told the veterinarian that the " gelding had been very sound and had competed three times with wonderful results. He does not seem to be sore at all, is feeling great and is a pleasure to show. Prior to the stem cell injection, every time we tried to step him up to get ready to show, he would go lame. Now, since the stem cell therapy, he has not had any lameness problems".

