

## **Prevalence of osteochondrosis in stallions in training centres – preliminary research**

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### **Summary**

Selection on osteochondrosis (OC) is a compulsory element of breeding in most breeding associations. The procedures of OC selection commonly conducted before licensing and /or performance test of young stallions; however, scientific papers indicate that training has an important influence on OC evidence. The aim of conducted study was to examine the changes of evidence of OC during young stallions' performance tests. Twenty eight stallions were investigated during their performance test at the beginning and at the end of 100-days period. Radiological images were obtained by using digital apparatus Gierth HF 80 Plus and scanner CR 3600 (VetRay). Ten radiological images were collected: lateromedial view of all fetlocks, lateromedial and dorsopalmar view of hooks, and lateromedial view of stifles. Radiological changes were described using following scale: 0 – no evidence of osteochondrosis; 1 – focal lesion and radiological shade concentration of the bone at the place where growth cartilage is closing place, minimal flattening or superstructure of subchondral bone in the joint; 2 – well-defined flattening or superstructure of subchondral bone in the joint; 3 – bone fragment in the joint and in the scale 0/1 as well where 0 means no evidence and one means clear evidence. Preliminary results were given in frequencies before and after the training. The evidence of osteochondrosis was observed in 25% of young stallions before performance test and reached 29% of stallions at the end of training. Changes were observed mostly in the distal parts of limbs.

KEY WORDS: osteochondrosis / training centre / horse health