

History: A six year old mare presented with severe lameness in the right fore foot. The mare was examined and treated by a farrier and DVM one week previous for a separation of the hoof wall at the toe area of each front foot.



Removal of the shoe revealed white line disease

Physical Exam: The mare was a grade 4/5 lame in the right fore foot. Grade 5/5 lame is non-weight bearing. Exam revealed separation of the white line in both fore feet and right hind foot due to white line disease. White line is the white line portion of the hoof. The destruction of the hoof causes the outer portion of the hoof to separate from the inner portion of the hoof and coffin bone. Radiographs showed separation of the white line portion of the hoof almost to the extent up the front of the hoof to the hairline. They also revealed a possible infection in the coffin bone.

Treatment: The diseased hoof wall was dremelled off on both fore feet and right hind foot. The right foot was more severe, requiring removal of the hoof wall up to the coronary papillae or just below the hairline. After removing the diseased hoof, the mare's feet were bandaged with iodine and she was started on antibiotic for the coffin bone infection. Daily bandage changes and removal of diseased tissue occurred until the underlining hoof was non-contaminated and tough enough to



Removing diseased hoof wall

repair the hoof with Equilox. Equilox is an acrylic product used on feet to repair a hoof deficit. Six days later, the left fore foot and the right hind foot were healed enough to apply the Equilox.

Fourteen days post-presentation, the infection in the right fore coffin bone had not resolved with systemic antibiotics and topical treatment. A medicine plate shoe was applied and surgical curettage of the infected coffin bone was performed to eliminate the disease process.



Surgically eliminating diseased coffin bone

Four days after surgery, the mare was discharged from the clinic with daily bandage changes until underlining tissue was tough enough to Equilox the hoof. The treatment consisted of cleaning the wound area and applying nolvasan ointment then sugerdyne ointment.



Post surgery: exposed coffin bone

Twenty-five days post-surgery, the mare foundered in the left fore foot due to constant pawing with the foot. The founder or laminitis responded with wedging the foot up, anti-inflammatory, and a blood vessel dilator. The coffin bone de-rotated with the treatment. The mare was also put on a long-term tranquilizer.



8.5 weeks post-surgery

Sixty-one days after surgery, the right fore foot was repaired with Equilox. The founder was completely resolved in the left fore foot and the mare was shod with 3 degree wedge shoes. The mare is currently sound.