

Inferior check ligament desmotomy

The inferior check ligament is also known as the accessory ligament of the deep digital flexor tendon (DDFT). Inferior check ligament desmotomy is a surgical procedure that provides more length to the deep flexor tendon unit allowing the toe out and the heel down. It is normally done in flexural deformity involving the distal interphalangeal joint. It is always used in combination with aggressive heel trimming and shoeing to a more normal conformation.

The procedure is usually done under general anesthesia. It is a short and usually simple surgical procedure. After the ligament is cut, the skin incision is sutured, and the limb is bandaged. After the surgery, the horse is maintained on stall rest, with a short course of NSAID drugs and gradually increasing hand walking over a 6 week period

