

Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Magnetic Resonance Imaging uses magnetic and radio waves to create a picture of the organs and tissues in the body. This is a powerful tool for the assessment of joint surfaces ,muscle tissue, tendons and ligaments.

An MRI can yield information about bone and soft tissue, but it is limited to a more focal region than a bone scan (for example, the foot or origin of the suspensory ligament). Many lamenesses stem from the foot, and before MRI technology, many such lamenesses were blamed on **navicular disease**. Yet the foot includes several major soft tissue structures that can cause lameness, and MRI can often detect the culprit.



Video link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZqGRx_W_kE

A standing sedated horse getting an MRI scan of its right distal forelimb. Scans such as this can produce good images of the navicular bone, coffin joint, pastern, fetlock and associated ligaments and related structures in the lower limb. (PHOTO COURTESY OF ROSSDALE & PARTNERS, NEWMARKET, U.K.)



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Navicular Edema

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