

DDFT Tenotomy

Indications: Viable alternative for horses with laminitis refractory to conventional medical treatment

Procedure:

- Tenotomy of the DDF tendon can be performed at the level of the mid-metacarpus or distal to the fetlock
- One hand was kept sterile to perform the surgery.
- A 1-cm incision was made between the lateral branch of the SDFT and the DDF tendon on the palmar aspect of the limb just proximal to the collateral cartilage.
- Using a Kelly hemostatic forcep, blunt dissection was used to enter the flexor tendon sheath.
- With the distal limb flexed, a straight bistoury knife was introduced into the incision.
- After placement of the bistoury knife with the side of the knife lying flat between the DDF tendon and the interior aspect of the flexor tendon sheath, the end of the knife was palpated through the skin to ascertain its correct position deep to the DDF tendon.
- The cutting edge of the bistoury knife was then turned in an outward direction to engage the DDF tendon.
- The distal limb was extended, and the DDF tendon was transected in a palmar direction.
- Transection of the tendon was confirmed by digital palpation, because ultrasonographic evaluation was limited because of air artifacts in the tendon sheath.
- The incision was closed with 2–0 polypropylene sutured in the skin only using a simple interrupted suture pattern