

Inferior Check Ligament Desmotomy

Indications:

- Distal interphalangeal joint flexural deformity (acquired)
- Acquired metacarpophalangeal joint flexural deformity
- Relieves chronic laminitis (rotation of distal phalanx) in adult horses

Procedure:

Before surgical procedure do aggressive heel trimming and shoeing to a more normal foot conformation.

- Place patient in lateral recumbency and under general anaesthesia
- A 3- to 4-cm skin incision centered at the junction between the proximal and middle one-third of the metacarpal area is made over the DDFT.
- Identify the flexor tendons after bluntly separating the subcutaneous tissue and incising the paratenon
- Move away the neurovascular bundle which covers the DDFT and ALDDFT.
- Use a curved haemostatic forceps to elevate the AL-DDFT lying palmar to the tendon is elevated to the level of the skin incision
- After identification of the ligament, transect its shaft with either a scalpel blade or scissors
- Suture the skin incision and bandage the limb
- 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. At that point, a gradual return to work can commence