

C-E.5 Basic Equine Surgery

Credits: 10 (100 hours)

Provider: Veterinary Postgraduate Unit – School of Veterinary Science

RCVS Content Covered

Click [here](#) to view the module content as outlined by the RCVS.

Aim of the Module

The aim of this module is to:

1. increase your depth of knowledge of the basic principles and their practical application in equine surgery including the principles of anaesthesia and physical/chemical restraint, instrumentation, the control of surgical infection and post-operative complications, and the principles of wound healing;
2. develop your diagnostic approach and treatment of common surgical disorders, using the principles of clinical reasoning and evidence-based practice, with a focus on soft tissue surgery affecting the integument, head and neck, urogenital tract and abdominal wall and GIT.

This module will also incorporate the generic skills of literature review and critique, communication, clinical audit and reflection.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module successful candidates will be able to:

1. apply the principles of equine surgery including anaesthesia and physical/chemical restraint, instrumentation, the control of surgical infection and post-operative complications, and the principles of wound healing;
2. critically evaluate the pathophysiology and presentation of common equine surgical disorders with a focus on soft tissue surgery affecting the integument, head and neck, urogenital tract and abdominal wall and GIT and apply this to the diagnostic evaluation and surgical treatment of cases;
3. apply clinical reasoning skills and evidence-based medicine in the diagnostic approach and management of diseases relevant to the topics covered;
4. critically appraise the literature relevant to clinical cases in the topics covered, and how the literature can be used to inform practice;
5. critically reflect on the appropriate case for onward referral.

Module Structure

The syllabus will be divided into 5 study units, preceded by an introductory week, each containing basic lecture and reading material supported by weekly interactions in the form of asynchronous case-based discussions, other discussions and/or synchronous journal clubs/literature critiques.

Study Unit 1 Principles of equine surgery

- Principles of anaesthesia and restraint
- Instruments, sutures and surgical wound healing
- Control of surgical infection
- Post-operative complications

Study Unit 2 Soft tissue surgery I: wound management and surgery of the integument

- Principles of acute wound management
- Management of skin wounds: grafts and failure of wound healing - Management of skin tumours I
- Management of skin tumours II

Study Unit 3 Soft tissue surgery II: the head and neck

- Diagnostic approach and principles of treatment of conditions of the head and neck

Study Unit 4 Soft tissue surgery III: The urogenital tract

- Diagnostic approach and principles of treatment of conditions of the male and female reproductive tract and disorders of the bladder and urethra.

Study Unit 5 Soft tissue surgery IV: the abdominal wall and alimentary tract

- Diagnostic approach and principles of treatment of conditions of the abdominal wall and GIT.

Assessment Strategy

- **2 x 1500-word reflective case reports (60%)**
On a topic related to the relevant study units, students are required to reflect on their own practice, using evidence-based veterinary medicine to inform their reflection. Reflective case reports are written following the format of published case reports in the veterinary literature. The case report component of the assessment must be passed for successful completion of the module, and is non-compensatory with other assessments, however there is compensation between case reports. Case reports are also submitted to a discussion board for critique and discussion by/with peers. A proportion of marks for this assessment are also allocated to this discussion element.
- **1 x 1-hour open book examination (30%)**
Based around clinical scenarios/cases, relevant to the module study units.
- **1 x written journal critique (not more than 500 words) and short oral presentation of the critique (15 minutes) (10%)**
Hosted by a staff member online synchronously using MS Teams. Students present their critique to the group, and the tutor and the students then hold a discussion of all papers. These are assessed on the submitted critique as well as the discussion.
- **1 x case log – 20 cases (pass/fail)**
The case log assessment is designed to assist the candidate in developing a solid foundation for everyday equine practice and demonstrate the necessary knowledge and skill base in the clinical setting.

Assessments are submitted sequentially with feedback being given between assessments to aid in the development of writing skills.

PLEASE NOTE: It is your responsibility to ensure that you have access to sufficient appropriate cases where you were the primary decision maker to produce adequate material for the module. This may not be possible with some internship positions. You must also be aware of any limitations of your facilities that may make the accumulation of appropriate cases difficult or impossible.