6th VEPRA – 1st ECVSMR Conference

EUROPEAN COLLEGE
OF VETERINARY SPORTS MEDICINE
AND REHABILITATION

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Veterinary European
Physical Therapy and
Rehabilitation Association

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Veterinary European Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Association (VEPRA)

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University

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Preface

Dear delegates,

We are privileged to welcome you in Ghent for the first combined conference of the Veterinary European Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Association (VEPRA) and the European College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation (ECVSMR) on 20-21 September 2019, preceded by a day with an exciting range of pre-congress workshops.

We are proud that Prof. dr. Steyaert will present the state of the art lecture on human sports medicine, which undoubtedly will provide ample food for thought and stimulate fruitful discussion and new ideas. This year's edition will offer a dedicated programme focused on small animals and, as an upgrade to previous editions of the VEPRA Conference, a programme dedicted to the equine field as well. We strongly believe that the scientific programme with various themes and topics related to veterinary sports medicine and rehabilitation will offer excellent opportunities to meet experts, to present and discuss research, provide new ideas and new knowledge on how to improve the treatment and care of patients.

We hope that you will enjoy Ghent (one of the best hidden secrets of Europe according to 'The Lonely Planet') during your stay, and that you will have plenty of opportunities to make new friends and reconnect with old ones, for example during the opening reception in the historic castle of Ghent, or during the congress dinner in a beautiful setting along the river.

We would like to close this welcome with a round of thanks for everyone who has made this conference possible. First of all, we thank all speakers for the time and effort they took to share their thoughts and experiences with us. Zoran Vrbanac is to be commended for organising the abstract submission and reviewing procedure and for compiling the proceedings. We thank Oliver Harms for his help in managing the financial aspects. We truly appreciate the excellent practical support provided by a highly motivated group of students (VSGk & VSGp) from the faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Ghent University. We thank the faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Ghent University for hosting the pre-congress workshops. Finally, we would like to thank all the sponsoring organisations for their generous financial support.

If you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to get in touch with us!

Kind regards,

Yves Samoy, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ECVSMR

Vice-secretary ECVSMR

Chair of the organizing committee (Small Animal Programme)

Maarten Oosterlinck, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ECVSMR, Dipl. ECVS

Vice-president ECVSMR

Co-chair of the organizing committee (Equine Programme)

EFFICACY OF INTRAARTICULAR POLYACRYLAMIDE HYDROGEL IN CANINE JOINTS WITH OSTEOARTHRITIS

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Introduction: Polyacrylamide hydrogel (PAAG) (Noltrex®, Bionoltra SA) is a non-toxic and non-immunogenic biocompatible polymer gel consisting of 97.5% sterile water and 2.5% cross-linked polyacrylamide. Its biocompatibility in soft tissues (e.g. reconstructive surgery, urology) has been demonstrated. Also, it is a non-particulate homogenous gel similar to sodium hyaluronan gel in overall structure and tissue compatibility, but with a longer-lasting viscous effect, as it is non-degradable. The purpose of this prospective clinical study was to investigate the efficacy of PAAG for improving clinical signs of osteoarthritis in the canine joints.

Material and Methods: Five dogs older than 5 years with osteoarthrosis in only one or more joints (a total of 10 joints) were injected with 1,5-2 ml of PAAG into the affected joint and were followed up at 3 months. Efficacy of PAAG was evaluated before and after treatment by an owner evaluation (*Canine Braif Pain Inventory - CBPI*), a clinical evaluation (*Bioarth Functional Evaluation Scale*) and a kinetic analysis (*GRF:* including peak vertical force (PVF) and vertical impulse (VI) and symmetry index (SI)).

Results: There was a statistically significant clinical improvement in the evaluation through the *CBPI* (Wilcoxon, $p<0,05$) from the baseline to post-treatment. At the evaluation, dogs improved clinically on the *Bioarth Functional Evaluation Scale*. Significant differences were observed in the *PVF, IV* and *SI* between pre and post-treatment (Wilcoxon, $p<0,05$).

Conclusion: PAAG significantly alleviated the clinical signs of osteoarthritis in dogs.