

# IT'S YOUR CASE

Species: Equine

Breed: Warmblood Sex: Mare

Age: 6 years

## **Clinical History:**

5 week history of unilateral left-sided nasal discharge

Anatomic regions: Head

**Details of study and technical comments**: Laterolateral and dorsoventral views of the head. There is mild motion artefact in the laterolateral projection. The study is of diagnostic quality.

## Diagnostic interpretation:

Several fluid lines are detected in the sinus complex, involving the rostral and caudal maxillary sinuses and conchofrontal sinus. There is diffuse increased opacity in the left sinus complex on the dorsoventral view compared to the right.

The nasal septum has a normal, straight orientation with a symmetric appearance of the nasal passages.

The region of the ethmoid is within normal limits. The bones surrounding the sinus cavities have a normal shape and outline.



t. +44 (0)1223 422251 www.vet-ct.com
e. info@vet-ct.com
Co Number 6955449 Registered Office St John's Innovation Centre Cowley Road Cambridge CB4 0WS UK
ABN 24601862220 Registered Office in Australia Suite 11, 185-187 High Street Fremantle WA 6160 Australia
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**Figure 1:** Laterolateral projection of the head: the green arrowheads indicate several fluid levels at the sinus compartments.

#### Conclusions:

Sinusitis of the left sinus compartment. Differential diagnoses include primary sinusitis or secondary dental sinusitis.

#### **Teaching points**:

The radiographic series is incomplete. Evaluation of the apices of the maxillary cheek teeth is required to ascertain whether or not there is dental involvement. This is best achieved by acquiring a lateral 30 degree dorsal-lateral ventral oblique views. I would recommend that both a right30dorsal-leftventral oblique view (which would highlight the left maxillary arcade) and a left30dorsal-rightventral oblique view (which would highlight the right maxillary arcade) are acquired for comparison.

Without having these views it is impossible to differentiate between a primary sinusitis and a dental sinusitis.

#### **Further reading:**



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Butler J., Colles C., Dyson S., Kold S., Paulos P., (2016) 'The head' In Clinical Radiology of the Horse 4<sup>th</sup> Ed pp441-531 Wiley-Blackwell London UK

Barrett M.F., Easley J (2013) ACquisition and interpretation of radiographs of the Equine Skull *Equine Veterinary Education* **25**(12) pp643-652

Barakzai 2014 Radiology of equine cheek teeth and sinus disorders *In Practice* <u>http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/inp.q5793</u>



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