

Equine Sarcoids
ALTERNATIVE VETERINARY MEDICINE CENTRE
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SARCOIDS - SARCOIDOSIS

What is it?

This is a troublesome condition of horses, characterised by fig-like growths on the skin, often around the eye, near the girth line, in the axilla (armpit), in the groin or on the sheath but which can occur anywhere on the body. Apart from such single growths, masses composed of multiple growths can occur (especially in the groin), as can less common flat, skin-level, crusty lesions ('occult' or 'verruucose' sarcoid). Sarcoids can travel along lymph channels, as discovered by hard linear spreading lesions, extending from the base of central nodule. They are strictly benign growths but can behave very aggressively at the local level, particularly if excised (surgically removed).

How does it occur?

The cause of the condition is not well understood. Viruses have been implicated, especially the bovine wart virus. [Vaccination](#) may play a part, at least in exacerbation.

Are there preventive measures to take?

None are known. A [nosode](#) may be useful in prevention (and we do have one) but there is no experience of this in practice.

Is it responsive to treatment?

The conventional response to this disease is to resort to surgery or to use a special anti-cancer cream, derived from a traditional recipe. We are not certain, however, that the one currently available is as effective as the original formula. Surgical removal can lead to disastrous exacerbation and proliferation of the condition. Radiation therapy and immune therapy have been tried but reported success levels are not good.

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Natural medicine methods, especially [homeopathy](#), aim to cure the disease or at least to reduce the tendency. At the **AVMC**, we have succeeded in more than 70% of cases. This can sometimes be only by ‘controlling’ the problem, not ‘curing’ it, but an apparent cure does seem to be possible in many cases. A homeopathic prescription is chosen on the basis of constitutional features, since this is a chronic disease. There may be a need for symptom-based homeopathic prescribing in support. Homeopathic therapy for [vaccine damage](#) may also be necessary.

Common homeopathic remedies, that have worked in past cases, chosen according to signs in the individual patient, are *Calcarea*, *Silica*, *Lycopodium*, *Medorrhinum*, *Nitric acid*, *Thuja*, *Tuberculinum*.

The type of sarcoids that give the most difficulty in treatment are the pendulous ones high up in the groin, where they become chafed by the horse’s leg movement.



pendulous sarcoids in the groin

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