
What Is Your Diagnosis?

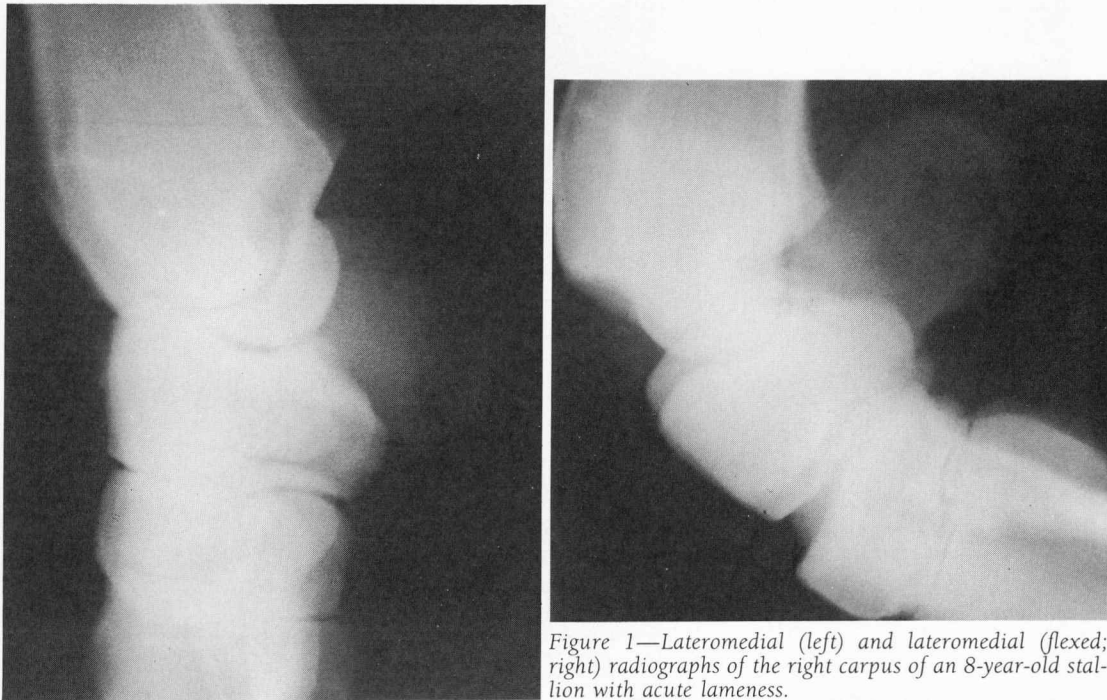


Figure 1—Lateromedial (left) and lateromedial (flexed; right) radiographs of the right carpus of an 8-year-old stallion with acute lameness.

History

An 8-year-old Arabian stallion was examined because of acute lameness and swelling of the right carpus. The radiocarpal and intercarpal joints were moderately distended. Flexion of the carpus elicited an aversion response and exacerbated the lameness. A grade-3 lameness, on a scale of 0 to 5, was observed when the stallion trotted. Radiographs of the carpus were obtained (Fig 1). A lesion

was not found in the dorsopalmar (DPa), dorsolateral-palmaromedial oblique, and standard dorso-medial-palmarolateral oblique (made at 60° medial to the DPa projection) radiographic views.

Make your diagnosis from Figure 1—then turn the page ►

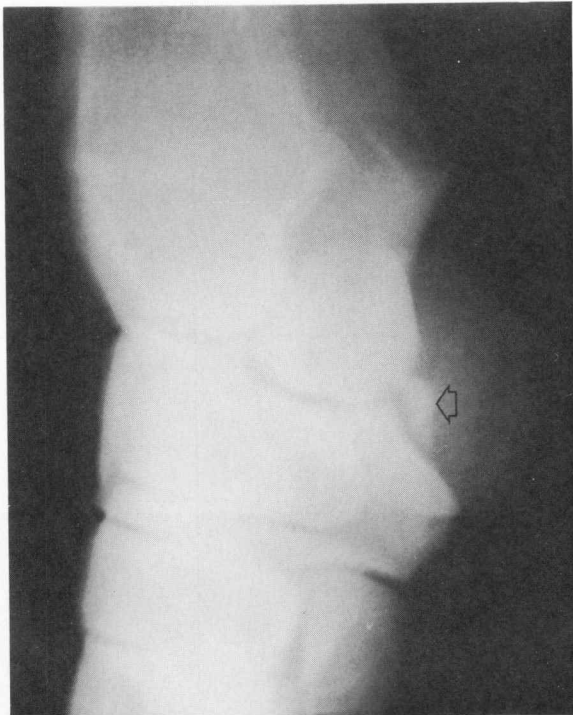


Figure 2—Dorsomedial-palmarolateral oblique radiograph made at 75° medial to the DPa projection. Fracture is easily found (arrow).

Here is the diagnosis

Radiologic Diagnosis—Slight irregularity of cranial aspect of the distal portion of the radius and the radial and intermediate carpal bones. Chip fracture of the palmaromedial aspect of the radial carpal bone.

Comments—The standard dorsomedial-palmarolateral oblique views poorly defined the fracture.^{1,2} A dorsomedial-palmarolateral oblique radiographic view at 75° medial to the DPa projection (Fig 2) allowed better visualization of the fracture. Nonstandard oblique radiographs should be obtained when lesions are not visible or radiographic findings are not compatible with the clinical diagnosis.

The osteochondral fragment was removed by

arthrotomy through the palmaromedial pouch of the radiocarpal joint. After surgery, the lameness resolved and the stallion returned to a successful show-performance career.

1. Boring JG. The carpus. In: Thrall DE, ed. *Textbook of veterinary diagnostic radiology*. Philadelphia: WB Saunders Co, 1986;149-158.

2. Park RD, Lebel JL. Equine radiology. In: Stashak TE, ed. *Adams' lameness in horses*. 4th ed. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger, 1987;157-270.

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