

Use of Conjunctival Pedicle Grafts to Treat Corneal Diseases in the Horse. Retrospective Review of 26 Cases

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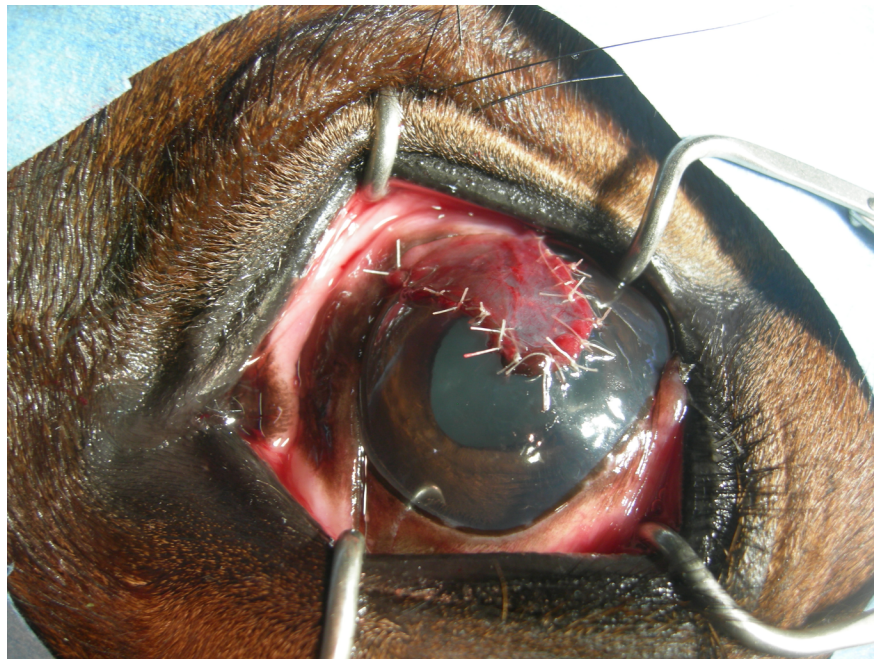
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Abstract

Background There are limited data on outcomes and complications of conjunctival pedicle grafts in horses. **Objective** Document the indications, complications and outcomes of conjunctival pedicle grafts in horses. **Study Design** Retrospective case series. **Methods** Review of case records of horses with corneal diseases managed using conjunctival pedicle grafts. History, clinical findings, treatments, complications, and outcomes were recorded. **Results** 26 horses were treated by conjunctival pedicle grafts over a 16 years period. The indications were deep corneal ulceration (n=9), non-healing superficial corneal ulceration (n=6), corneal stromal abscessation (n=5), corneal laceration (n=3) and keratomalacia (n=3). Short term complications occurred in 12 horses (46%), the commonest being necrosis of the graft (n=6); in 3 cases, the corneal lesion healed following debridement, but in 2 the affected eye required enucleation and one was euthanased. Keratomalacia and ulceration extending beyond the graft occurred in 3 horses, all of which were enucleated. Uveitis occurred in 6 horses (4 cases prior to discharge and 2 after discharge); enucleation was required in 5 of these horses. Phthisis bulbi occurred prior to discharge in one horse and after discharge in another. Two horses had decreased faecal output after surgery (one had caecal impaction). In 6/26 cases (23%) enucleation was required prior to hospital discharge. One horse was euthanased due to post-operative caecal impaction. The short-term success rate was 69%. Two horses (8%) required enucleation after discharge from the hospital and the long-term success rate was 58%. **Main Limitations** Small number of cases with variety of different diseases of varying severities. **Conclusions** Conjunctival pedicle grafts were successfully employed to treat several corneal diseases including chronic superficial corneal ulceration, deep corneal ulceration, corneal stromal abscesses, corneal lacerations and keratomalacia. The short-term success rate was 69%. Long-term follow-up indicated a good prognosis for most horses that had a successful short-term outcome.

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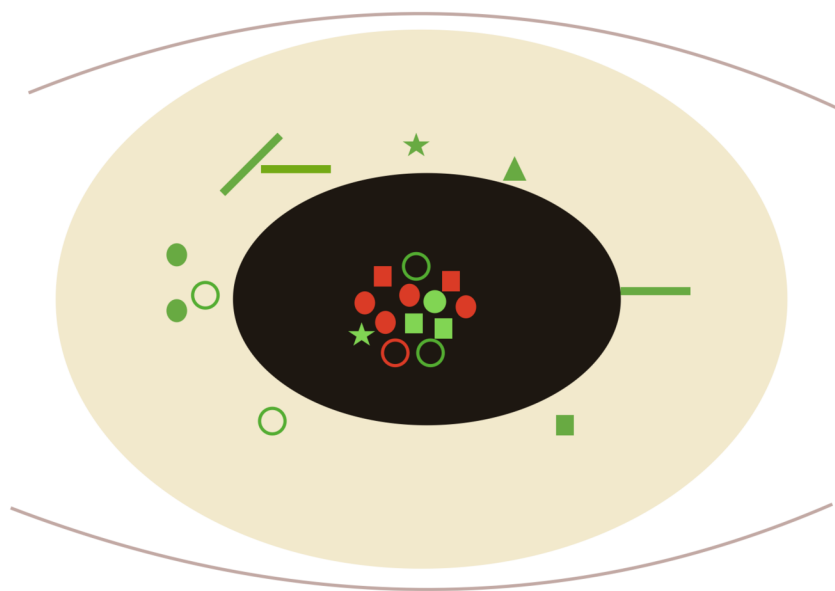












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