

Case Study # 4

Udder Tumor, Colic & Ulcers

Test Subject: 13 year old Mare

Background: 6 years prior to the beginning of this study, in 2005 the mare had surgery to remove a tumor on her udder. The initial examination showed a tumor about the size of a human thumb, approximately 3/4 inch wide by 1 1/2 inches long. While in surgery, the vet discovered a larger mass of “fingers” radiating from the core and removed a bigger section than was first anticipated. The tumor was benign.

- Within 6 months, tumor returned, regaining pre-surgery size. Several veterinarians checked the tumor over the next few years. Each suggesting to watch it for any increase in size. If the tumor grew, the only options were to again have surgery or try injections.
- Mare was diagnosed with Ulcers. She was also prone to sporadic colic episodes, in which the vet believed to be from a slight twist in her intestine, possibly the caeum.

Case Management & Outcome: November 2010—In an attempt to prevent or decrease her colic episodes and help with any remaining ulcer remnants, the mare was started on 4 oz. Chia daily along with her HS-35 and OptiMSM. This was, however, about to provide an unexpected benefit.

- In May 2011, during a routine examination of her udder, the tumor showed a significant decrease in mass. The width was now about the size of an eraser on a #2 lead pencil and only 3/4 inches long. This tumor had been sitting stagnant for years—exciting indeed!
- Her colic episodes decreased. Without scoping there was no real way to tell if her ulcers were healed, but she acted like it with no symptoms. Her digestive system seemed to “work” better and she was cycling regularly again—another unexpected side effect.
- In September 2011, there was only small scar tissue left from the initial surgery to remove the first tumor.
- The mare was then maintained with 2 oz. of Chia instead of the therapeutic dosage, HS-35 and OptiMSM.

Case Opinion: This mare had several issues going. Amazing changes were noted in this mare with the combination of her diet. Once again this was not a controlled study, but rather anecdotal, and one must take into account that each horse is an individual and may or may not react in the same manner. Controlled studies need to be done, of course; however ramifications could be enormous.