What's Your Radiographic Diagnosis?

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What's Your Radiographic Diagnosis?

Lee Carpenter*
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HISTORY
An eight year old thoroughbred gelding was brought into the clinic in January with a history of lateral luxation of the right front fetlock which occurred in September. The horse had been in a cast for six weeks and was currently lame. Examination showed swelling around the fetlock with no flexion. Radiographs were taken. See figures 1, 2, and 3 to make your radiographic diagnosis.

Fig. 1. Dorsopalmar view of right front fetlock.
Fig. 2. Lateromedial view of right front fetlock.

Fig. 3. Dorsolateral to palmar-medial oblique view.
RADIOGRAPHIC DIAGNOSIS

Right front fetlock: both proximal sesamoids are displaced in a proximal direction. Extensive periosteal proliferation is seen from the abaxial, apical, and basilar surfaces of both medial and lateral proximal sesamoids. This periosteal proliferation is very irregular in contour, and indicates active new bone formation. The axial surfaces and the articular surfaces of the proximal sesamoids are least involved with the new bone formation. Periosteal new bone is seen prominently along the dorsal aspect of both distal MC-3 and proximal P-1. Periarticular osteophytes are prominent along all margins of P-1.

Conclusion: luxation of proximal sesamoids due to rupture of distal sesmoidean ligaments. Osteoarthritis of fetlock secondary to trauma-induced instability. Tearing of fibro-osseous attachment sites of the suspensory ligament along the apical and abaxial surfaces of the sesamoids causes the ragged new bone formation in these areas.

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