



Equine Viral Arteritis

Etiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equine arteritis virus• RNA virus; Member of the <i>Arterivirus</i> genus
Legal status in Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notifiable in all equine animals.
Species affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All equidae• Clinical cases in horses and ponies• Antibodies found in horses, ponies and zebras• Prevalence of virus varies among horse breeds; Standardbreds are particularly susceptible
Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Serological evidence of the virus worldwide• Disease outbreaks are infrequent• Outbreaks reported in America, Canada, Switzerland, Austria, the United Kingdom, Poland and Spain
Incubation period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 days-2 weeks
Clinical signs	<p>More severe in old and young animals, and animals in poor condition Most common clinical signs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fever• Depression• Anorexia• Leukopenia• Limb oedema, especially hindlimbs• Oedema of the prepuce and scrotum• Abortion can occur in 10 – 50% of cases (not always preceded by clinical signs)• Urticaria, stiff gait, ataxia, icterus, dyspnea or diarrhoea may also occur <p>Other less consistent clinical signs include lacrimation, conjunctivitis, photophobia, periorbital or supraorbital oedema, nasal discharge, rhinitis and oedema of the ventral body wall Mortality is rare, most likely in young foals</p>
Differential diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equine influenza• Equine herpes virus 1 and 4 infections (abortions)• Equine infectious anaemia• African horse sickness• Getah virus infection• Purpura haemorrhagica, and other streptococcal infections
Transmission	<p>Virus excreted in aerosols of acutely affected horses Main methods of transmission are via the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respiratory route<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ At racetracks, sales, shows and other events• Venereal route<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ From carrier stallions <p>Mares infected in late pregnancy can infect foals <i>in utero</i></p>
Persistence of the organism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present in accessory sex glands of infected stallions• Destroyed by most common disinfectants
Public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is no indication that equine arteritis virus can infect humans