**Equine infectious anemia (EIA)**

**Classic case:** Horse with recurrent fever, petechiae, anemia and edema

**Presentation(s):** Acute, chronic (recurrent febrile episodes), and inapparent carriers.

- Horses may exhibit mild or severe illness when first infected.
- If they do not die, they may suffer recurrent episodes of fever, malaise, petechiae, and edema, -or-
- They may become inapparent carriers.

### Three presentations of EIA

1. **Acute**
   - Signs w/in 1-4 wks of infection; Lasts ~1 wk
   - Fever, anorexia
   - Petechiae, edema
   - mild ↓ platelets,
   - mild ds → death

2. **Chronic**
   - recurrent fever
   - weight loss, cachexia
   - petechiae, edema
   - hemolytic anemia
   - marked ↓ platelets
   - death

3. **Inapparent carrier**
   - NO Signs

**Other signs**
- ataxia
- encephalomyelitis
- abortion
- immune-mediated
- lesions

### Progression:

- **First infected**
  - Acute illness, can be mild or severe
    - Fever, transient anorexia
    - Petechial hemorrhages
    - Mild thrombocytopenia
    - Death

- **If horse survives acute illness**
  - Chronic episodes
    - Fever, malaise, edema
    - Hemolytic anemia
    - Marked thrombocytopenia
    - Petechial hemorrhages
    - Weight loss and cachexia
    - Gradual wasting disease
      - Edema and anemia
  - Subclinical or inapparent carriers

- **Other syndromes/symptoms possible**
  - Encephalomyelitis
  - Ataxia
  - Abortion
  - Immune-mediated lesions
Equine infectious anemia (EIA)

**DDX:**
- EIA can look like many other dzs, Coggins test is definitive
- EVA, PH, AIHA, Immune-mediated thrombocytopenia
- Internal abscess, heart failure, Chronic liver disease,
- Neoplasia, Eq Ehrlichiosis (now-Anaplasma phagocytophila)

**Test of choice:** COGGINS (AGID) or ELISA

**Rx of choice:**
- None, carriers for life
- Often euthanized
- If not euthanized, quarantine in fly proof area > 200 meters from other horses

**Prognosis:**
Grave-infected for life. Most owners elect to euthanize

**Prevention:**
- EIA testing
- Eliminate or quarantine carriers
- Fly control

**Pearls:**
- Spreads via biting insects (esp. horseflies & deerflies)
- Lentivirus – Retroviridae family, related to HIV
- Life-long disease = life-long risk to other horses
- REPORTABLE

**Refs:** Blackwell’s EQ 5 Minute Consult, 2nd Ed, pp. 408-9; Manual of Equine Emergencies, Orsini and Divers p.332; Merck Veterinary Manual 10th ed (online): Equine Infectious Anemia; The Center for Food Security & Public Health and Iowa State University.
Coggins test form