
Equine Gastric Ulcers

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Terms

EGUS - Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome - an umbrella term that covers both glandular and non-glandular ulcers

ESGD - Equine Squamous Gastric Disease - non-glandular ulcers

EGGD - Equine Glandular Gastric Disease - gastritis and pyloric ulcers

Intro

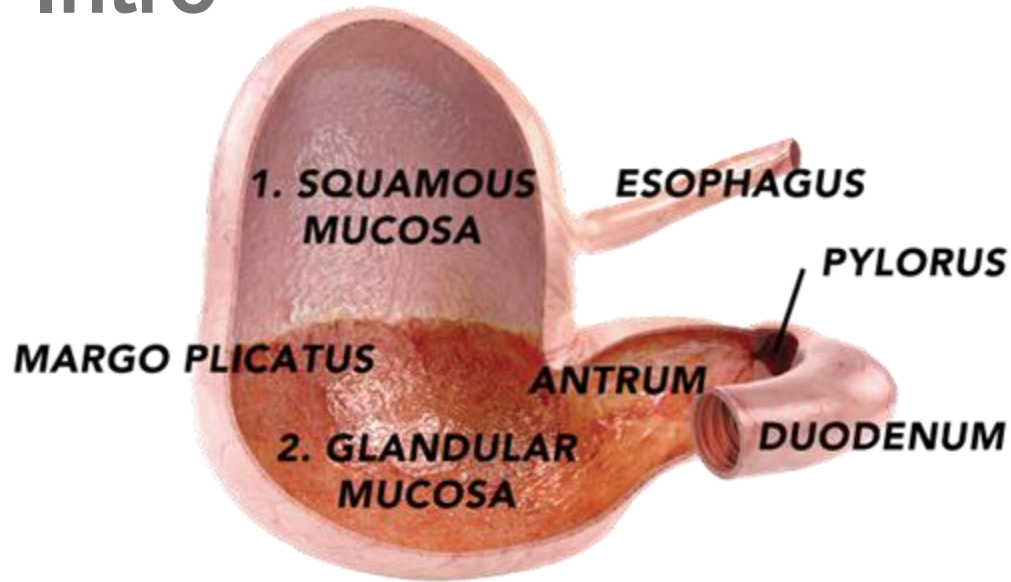


Image represents an empty, air-filled stomach as observed during gastroscopy

Image: <https://bi-animalhealth.com/equine/gastric-health>

How are gastric ulcers diagnosed?

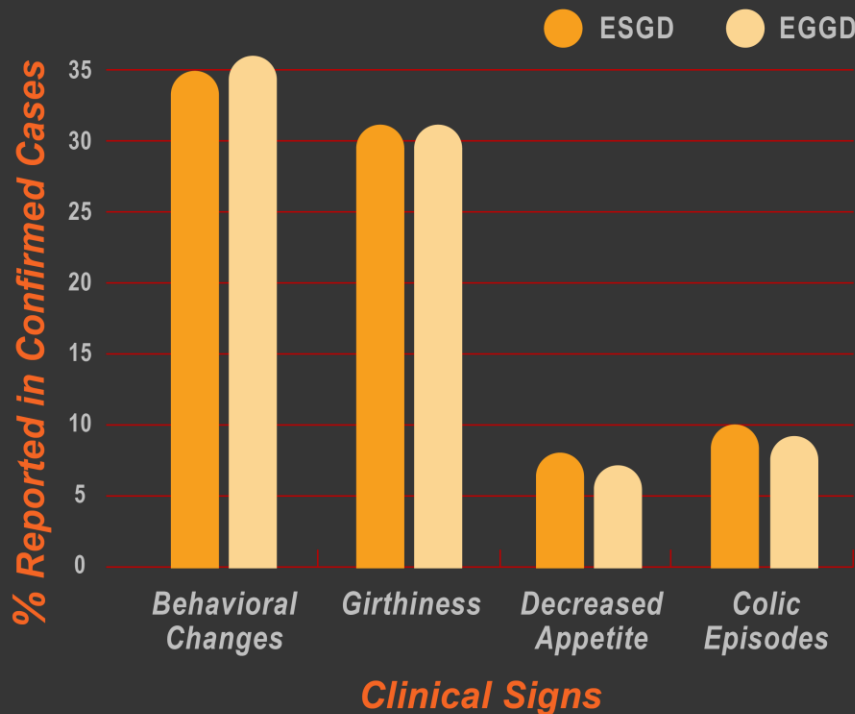
Gastroscopy



Tip

A recent study showed poor correlation between behaviors and ulcers.

While one behavior may not indicate ulcers, a change in behavior is a strong indicator.



From owner-reported data, certain clinical signs emerged as the most and least associated with confirmed cases of EGUS.

Tip

Girthiness is the behavior most associated with EGUS.

Graph courtesy of
Boehringer Ingelheim



Equine Squamous Gastric Disease (ESGD)

Findings

Ulcers of the non-glandular stomach graded 0-4. Most commonly along the margoplicatus.

Squamous Ulcer Grading System



Grade 0 (normal)



Grade 1



Grade 2



Grade 3



Grade 4



ESGD Treatment

- Gastrogard
 - ◆ Enteric coated omeprazole
- Compounded products are broken down by the stomach acid

Equine Glandular Gastric Disease (EGGD)



Tip

Glandular ulcers are described rather than graded



EGGD Treatment

- Trial and error as one treatment doesn't fix all horses
- First line of treatment is directed at modulating prostaglandins (involved in inflammation)



What causes ulcers?

→ Evolution

Horses secrete stomach acid constantly.

→ Stress

This can be very horse specific.

→ NSAIDs

Yes even Equioxx



How common are ulcers in horses?

Certain disciplines show higher EGUS prevalence than many owners may have thought, including pleasure horses and other disciplines not necessarily associated with high-intensity exercise.

Data courtesy of Boehringer Ingelheim



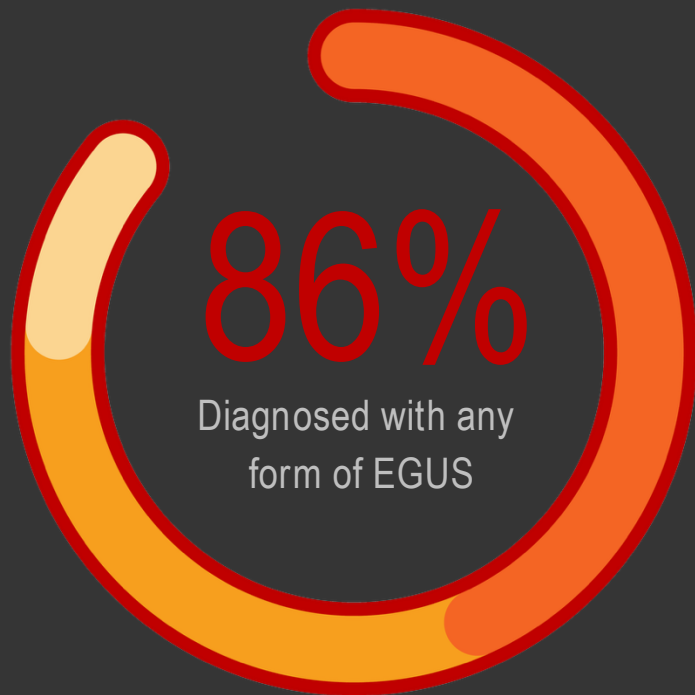
93% *Endurance horses*

90% *Cutting horses*

90% *Western Pleasure horses*

89% *Jumper horses*

77% *Pleasure horses*



Tip

Just treating with Gastrogard can be costly and will only work if your horse has exclusively squamous disease.

Graph courtesy of Boehringer Ingelheim

11%

EGGD only

30%

ESGD only

45%

Both EGGD and ESGD



ESGD Prevention

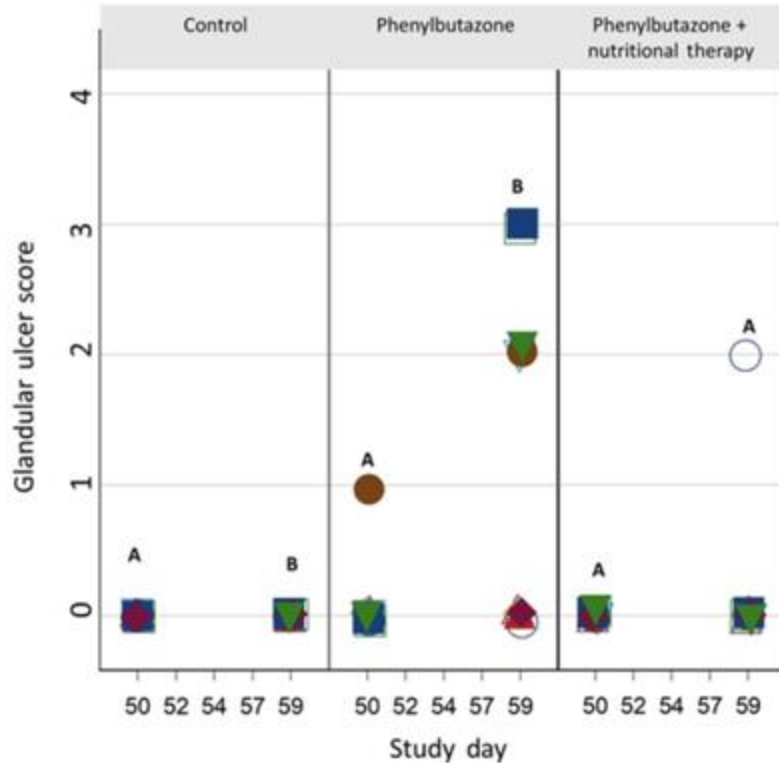
- More frequent meals
- Feed/Outlast prior to riding
- Some alfalfa
- Add corn or flax oil to diet
- Supplements with good research showing they are effective (most are not)





ESGD Prevention

- Avoid stress
- Avoid NSAIDs
- Platinum GI or DJ



Scatter plot showing distribution of glandular ulcer scores with each point colored by the individual animal. Values within columns with different letters differ significantly. There was a significant increase in the gastric glandular ulcer scores in the phenylbutazone treated animals. No other changes were significant

[J Vet Intern Med](#); 2021

Mar;35(2):1121-1130. doi:

10.1111/jvim.16093. Epub 2021 Mar 3.

Effects of phenylbutazone alone or in combination with a nutritional therapeutic on gastric ulcers, intestinal permeability, and fecal microbiota in horses

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Questions?

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