

An experiment with stem cells in horses has been able to restore muscle tissue in diseases such as tendinitis or arthritis

LOCATION: Manilva (Málaga)

VTR DURATION: 1'47"

SUMMARY: The referral hospital 'La Equina' in Manilva (Málaga), specialized in treating horses, is conducting a pioneering investigation in Spain, working with stem cells with the aim to regenerate muscle tissue in horses with arthritis or tendinitis. The success rate in sporting horses is reaching up to a 75% so within a period of two to three years they will be able to start testing in humans. This investigation counts on the collaboration of The Royal Veterinary College of England and the Vetcell Company, world leaders in equine stem cell therapy, as well as the support from the Andalusian administration.

VTR TEXT:

Cadálce is a race horse which had to quit international competition due to severe inflammation in his tendons. That's it, like it could happen to any human, this horse suffered from a tendinitis.

MIGUEL ÁNGEL VALDÉS/La Equina Hospital

"Horses are magnificent models to use to study musculoskeletal diseases, in other words orthopedics: limps, muscular pain, joint pain, pain in the tendons..."

That's why Cadálce has undergone this innovative new treatment with stem cells in this referral hospital 'La Equina' in Manilva, Costa del Sol. The ESTEM project is investigating how to use this technique to regenerate muscle tissue.

The result is clear: Cadálce is back trotting like he was back in his good old days. And with this therapy the success rate is reaching a 75% in comparison to other methods known which are curing just half of the cases treated.

MIGUEL ÁNGEL VALDÉS/La Equina Hospital

"So we've greatly improved the success rate in curing these sorts of diseases in sporting horses"

Once the necessary security measures are taken it is expected that this treatment will be available to be used in humans in the next two to three years. And all it takes is a little injection like this one.

MIGUEL ÁNGEL VALDÉS/La Equina Hospital

"There is a chance that the very injury calls and attracts the stem cell, this would result in a very beneficial advance in the case of humans as we would not have to apply and implant the stem cells directly to the wound."

This is cutting-edge research in Spain and has been placed amongst the leading therapies globally after presenting its results at veterinary medicine conferences

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