CASE HISTORY

Treatment of acute severe tendonitis and tearing of tendon fibrils

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According to a preliminary report, the 22-year-old pony called Rübezahl had suffered severe tendon damage (front right-hand side) while in the paddock on 5 June 2015.

An ultrasound examination enabled one to diagnose severe tendonitis of the superficial flexor tendon, with large-scale tearing of tendon fibrils (see Image 1).

Following acute treatment with a support bandage and the administering of non-steroidal antiphlogistics, the horse was given an intratendinous injection of an E-PET platelet concentrate on 18 June 2015. This procedure involves blood being taken, filtered, and recovered with the help of the return flow of an elution solution. Using ultrasound to support the process, a needle is introduced into the core of the lesion on the affected tendon and the solution is administered.

The necessary rehabilitation program was supported by ultrasound examinations. Following treatment of the acute injury, the owner carried out daily therapy of the affected area using a combination of low-level light and infrared: light in the visible red wavelength range (632 nm) and medically relevant infrared heat penetrate the tissue. Increasing the circulation and activating the cytochrome c oxidases stimulates the cells and the way they function. This leads to the more rapid removal of tissue water in the case of swellings, but also the more rapid repair of damaged cells. These processes are identical in every cell, regardless of whether one is dealing with muscle

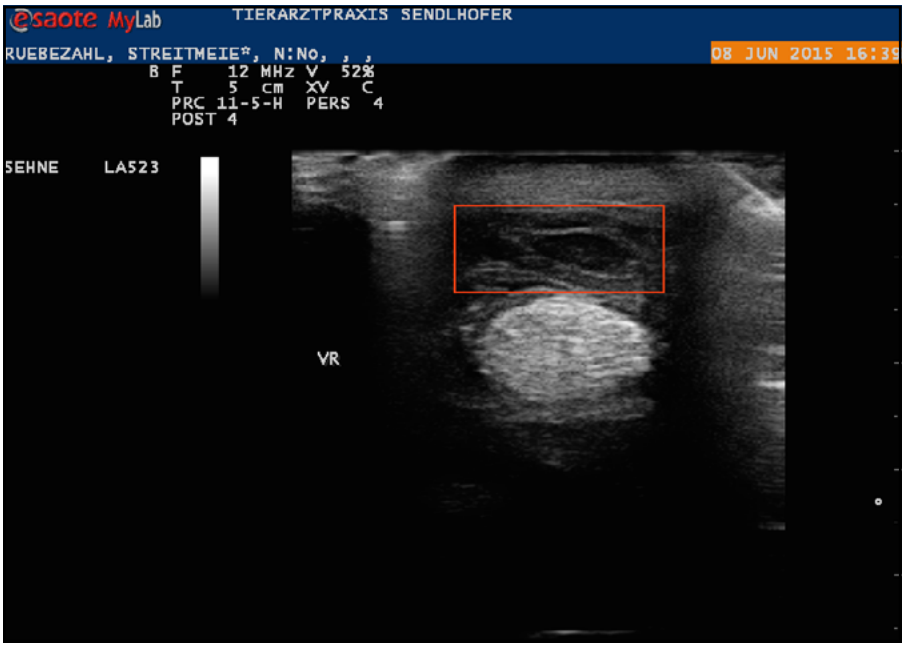

Photo: © Dr. Andreas Sendlhofer

Image 1: Tendonitis of the superficial flexor tendon, with large-scale tearing of tendon fibrils (8 June 2015)

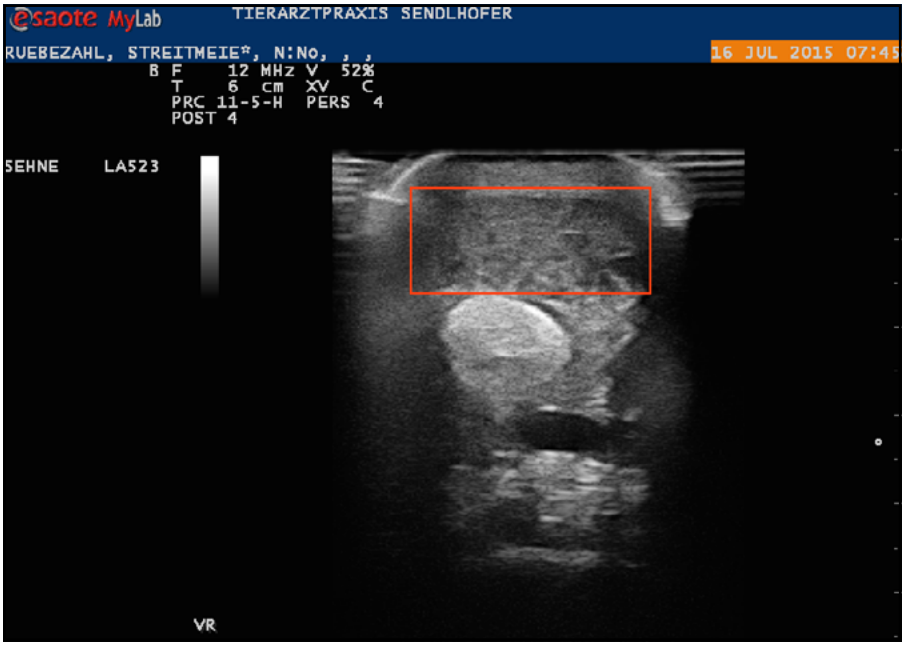

Photo: © Dr. Andreas Sendlhofer

Image 2: Regeneration of tendon fibers following combination therapy (16 July 2015)

Low Level Light IR-Therapy

Rübezahl with animal owner

Dr. Sendlhofer

Photos: © C. Streitmeier

cells, nerve cells, connective tissue cells, and so forth, so we can achieve a positive impact on the various types of tissue.

The regeneration process has hitherto been monitored via a further ultrasound examination (one month after the PRP therapy); this has revealed a significant regrowth of tendon fibers in the area of the tendon damage (see Image 2).

When combined with intensive veterinary therapy, the use of this low-level light/IR combination therapy ought to lead to the more rapid repair of tendon damage in horses.

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