

Guttural Pouch Tympany (GPT) occurs in horses ranging from birth to 1 year of age and is more common in fillies than in colts. It is thought to be genetic in Arabians, possibly polygenic inheritance, but more study is needed. Foals are born with a defect that causes the pharyngeal orifice of the Eustachian tube to act like a one-way valve. Air can get in, but it cannot get out. The affected guttural pouch is distended with air and forms a characteristic nonpainful swelling. Breathing is noisy in severely affected animals. Diagnosis is based on clinical signs and radiographic examination of the skull. Medical management with NSAID and antimicrobial therapy can treat upper respiratory tract inflammation. Surgical intervention is needed to correct the malformation of the guttural pouch opening to provide a route for air in the abnormal guttural pouch to pass to the normal side and be expelled into the pharynx. Foals that are successfully treated may grow up to have fully useful lives.

Reference Materials

1. Blazyczek, Ingild Astrid. "Populationsgenetische Analyse der Luftsacktympantie beim Fohlen" (en: "Population genetic analysis of guttural pouch tympany in foals") Hannover, Tierärztliche Hochschule, Dissertation, 2002.
http://deposit.ddb.de/cgi-bin/dokserv?idn=967171865&dok_nam=abstract&dok_ext=htm&filename=967171865.htm (scroll down screen for English version)
2. [Marcella, Kenneth L., D.V.M. "The mysterious guttural pouch." *Thoroughbred Times*, January 30, 2006.](#)
3. [I. Blazyczek, H. Hamann, B. Ohnesorge, E. Deegen, and O. Distl "Inheritance of Guttural Pouch Tympany in the Arabian Horse." *Journal of Heredity* 2004:95\(3\):195-199.](#)

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