



**Waterlane**  
EQUINE VETS

# FACTSHEETS

## LEUKOCYCLASTIC VASCULITIS IN HORSES (PASTERN DERMATITIS)

Leukocytoclastic vasculitis (photoaggravated vasculitis) is a poorly understood disease. It affects mature horses and targets unpigmented distal extremities. It is often confused with mud rash or mud fever, but typically occurs in the summer when ground conditions are dry.

The cause is believed to involve immunocomplex deposition on the blood vessel walls of the distal limbs, triggering vasculopathy and resulting in clinically well-demarcated circular, erythematous, exudative lesions with tightly adherent crusts. The prevalence of clinical signs in the summer suggests that it is photoaggravated. Bacterial colonisation is also important.

Treatment involves using antibacterial shampoos and topical corticosteroid anti-inflammatories.



### TREATMENT PROTOCOL

1. Scrub the affected skin with warm water and Hibiscrub, with the intention of removing crusting.
2. Leave the shampoo in situ for 15 minutes and then rinse off and dry. Apply Isaderm ointment to affected areas.
3. Repeat daily for 5 days and then every 2-3 days.