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Auscultation for pre-exercise screening in the horse

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Objective
To describe the highlights of cardiac auscultation of the equine athlete in the context of pre-exercise screening for cardiac adverse event prevention.

Animals
Horses.

Methods
Tutorial description.

Results
Description of the highlights of cardiac auscultation of the equine athlete in the context of pre-exercise screening for cardiac adverse event and exercise-associated sudden death prevention.

Clinical Relevance
Cardiac adverse events and exercise-associated deaths are problems that affect horses' health, riders' safety, and the public perception of welfare during equestrian sports. Screening before participation in sports has helped decrease the incidence of sudden death in humans. We believe auscultation may be a high-yield, low-cost strategy to improve equine welfare and a key component of a prevention program for exercise-associated sudden death in equine athletes. What we describe here highlights that an irregularly irregular rhythm is atrial fibrillation until proven otherwise and is the main target of pre-exercise auscultation. Concerning murmurs are the second target; multiple examples of audio, video, and electrocardiograms are shown.

Keywords: auscultation, exercise-associated sudden death, arrhythmia, murmur, atrial fibrillation

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Disclosures

The authors have nothing to disclose. No AI-assisted technologies were used in the composition of this video or abstract.

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