

From the journals.... Equine Osteochondrosis (OCD)

A recent study showed that septic arthritis in foals can cause development of osteochondral lesions independent of the genetic predisposition of a foal to develop OCD.



In OCD, failure of the cartilage canal blood supply leads to ischemic chondronecrosis which in turn, can cause osteochondrosis, and osteochondral lesions. In a small study, Wormstrand et al., found that septic arthritis in foals causes similar cartilaginous changes.

In sterile cases of OCD, there is a heritable component which may affect breeding options in horses that are genetically predisposed to develop this condition. However, Wormstrand et al.'s study concluded that septic-related OCD

is unlikely to increase the prevalence of OCD-predisposing genes within the population compared to horses without a history of septic arthritis.

Reference: Wormstrand B, Østevik L, Ekman S, Olstad K. Septic Arthritis/Osteomyelitis May Lead to Osteochondrosis-Like Lesions in Foals. *Veterinary Pathology*. 2018. 55(5): 693-702.