

# Without MRI, can you make a true diagnosis?



**'If I get a lame horse which blocks to the foot, and has no obvious changes on x-ray, I'd be lost without MRI'** Tim Mair, Bell Equine

**'It's hard to imagine sport horse practice these days without MRI'** Michael Schramme, Professor in Equine Surgery, Lyon

**'In many horses with foot pain an accurate definitive diagnosis can only be made using MRI'** R. Parkes, R. Newton and S. Dyson, Vet J 204, 40-46 (2015)

**'The MRI examination has opened doors for veterinary medicine which have long been closed. For today's orthopaedic medicine – indispensable!'** Bjorn Nolting, Leichlingen, Germany

Specialists worldwide agree that MRI has transformed the diagnosis of equine lameness

Groundbreaking research by Sue Dyson, Rachel Murray and their colleagues at the Animal Health Trust in Newmarket a decade or more ago showed that pain localised to the foot using perineural analgesia – commonly called 'navicular syndrome' – can be caused by any of 12 or more different conditions. MRI is still the **only** way to distinguish between them.

The existence of some conditions has only been recognised since the advent of MRI.

Without the evidence of MRI lesions of the tendons, ligaments, and other bones of the foot, fetlock, carpus and tarsus remain only conjecture.

Info from Hallmarq, 2017)

