



EQUINE FACT SHEET
YOUR SERUM AMYLOID A TEST



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USING THE SERUM AMYLOID A TEST

Equine practitioners are routinely faced with providing veterinary care to animals of great emotional and financial value to their owners. This test can provide a significant head start in the diagnosis and treatment of many conditions, working with Serum amyloid A (SAA) – one of the acute phase proteins produced by the liver in response to inflammatory stimuli.

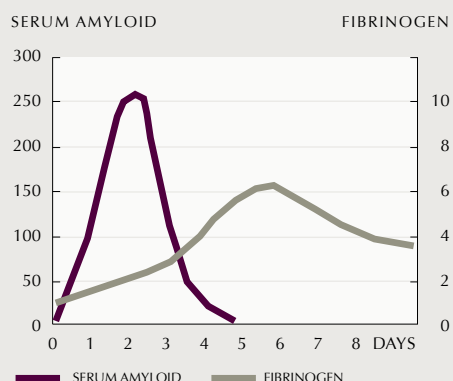
EARLY DETECTION OF AN INFLAMMATORY RESPONSE



SERUM AMYLOID A AS A DIAGNOSTIC TOOL

Traditionally used fibrinogen is regarded as one of the “moderate” group – slower to rise, does not increase dramatically (typically only a 1-10x increase) and taking much longer to return to normal once the stimulus has gone. In contrast SAA is considered a “major” acute phase protein and has several advantages over fibrinogen, due to the following properties:

- Increases very quickly – increases are reported within 8 hours & the peak is within 2 days
- Increases are in the range of 10 - >100 x normal
- The level returns to normal within 5-7 days



SCENARIOS WHERE THIS TEST WOULD BE USEFUL

- Routine screening to look for inflammation (serum sample)
- Assessment of newborn foals which can have a sluggish white cell response
- Assessing fitness of patient for surgery – if SAA is >10 pre op (normal is 0-3) there is an increased risk of infectious complications with castration
- On fluids – abdominal fluid, joint fluid etc – differentiating infectious vs noninfectious causes
- Assessment of response to treatment eg in foals being treated for Rhodococcus, SAA in serum decreased immediately treatment was started.
- Post treatment evaluation of fluids eg after joint flushing to see if the level has decreased.