

**Autoimmune Disorders (Auto-immune)
ALTERNATIVE VETERINARY MEDICINE CENTRE
Information Sheet WS056/07
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AUTOIMMUNE (AUTO-IMMUNE) DISORDER

What is it?

An auto-immune (autoimmune) disorder is one in which the body's immune system has, for one reason or another, begun to attack its own tissues. There are various recognised named types, for instance Auto-Immune Haemolytic Anaemia, Eosinophilic Myositis and Lupus (SLE and DLE), Purpura, Addison's Disease (Hypoadrenocorticism), Hypothyroid, VKH, CDRM, Dry Eye (Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca), Temporal Myositis and Pemphigus in dogs, Eosinophilic Granuloma and Rodent Ulcer in cats and Equine Autoimmune Thrombocytopenia (EAT), Autoimmune Haemolytic Anaemia, Recurrent Uveitis (Moonblindness) & Autoimmune Skin disorders (Pemphigus) in horses. In our opinion, other diseases, such as Pancreatic Insufficiency, Diabetes, Cardiomyopathy and Heart Valve Disease of Cavaliers may also be classified as auto-immune, when the establishment understanding of the processes involved has sufficiently progressed. We are beginning to develop a suspicion that chronic renal failure may have an autoimmune component, possibly as a result of the tissues injected with vaccines.

In our experience, dogs are most commonly affected, with cats and horses following closely behind.

What does it do?

A generalised auto-immune disorder will often show as inflammation of the body orifices and of the toe-nail beds, since these tissues are rapidly multiplying and are therefore the most vulnerable. This is called 'pemphigus'. Some types can 'target' specific organs or tissues.

This and the specifically-named types are characterised by breakdown in the involved tissues, leading to serious malfunction. Clearly, the more vital an organ or tissue involved, the more serious the disease.

How does it occur?

This is not well-known. Any process, which damages the immune system, can lead to this condition. It appears that a 'recognition malfunction' occurs, whereby the body fails to distinguish properly between 'foreign' and 'self' proteins. Virus infection, mental or psychological trauma and [vaccination](#) are the most obvious likely agents, that seriously impinge on immune function. Science has yet to clarify this issue. A disturbing association between onset of symptoms and timing of vaccination has been noted in a large proportion of cases. Is it an accident that the most vaccinated species have the most autoimmune diseases? Annual boosting of vaccination is not based on science and the giving of a double 'starter' course again, should an annual booster have lapsed, is in our opinion extremely dangerous. At the time of writing, vaccine manufacturers deny any possible link between vaccination and auto-immune diseases although they have never told me how they arrive at this conclusion. When one considers that animal tissues may be included with the vaccine (e.g. nervous tissue, kidney tissue), it is not an impossible leap of logic to postulate that there may be a connection.

Is it responsive to treatment?

In conventional medicine, the usual resort is to high doses of steroids (cortisone). This can bring rapid or delayed-onset serious side-effects or, if well tolerated, will suppress the inflammation and restore more or less normal function. In horses, it is accompanied by a significant risk of iatrogenic, steroid-induced laminitis. It is not usually a sustainable course of action, owing to serious side-effects of long-term use and, once started, it is difficult to stop, since signs and symptoms will often recur with increasing severity. Increasing doses may then be needed, long-term, to control the disease. Happily, there is another way.

In homeopathy, we attempt to restore balance and normal function to the immune system, whatever the species. **If the homeopathic treatment is successful**, normal function and health can be restored, subject to the ability of damaged tissues to regenerate. The skin, muscle and bowel forms are usually well able to recover. Prognosis is therefore good. Heart, kidney and central nervous system damage is less reversible, since regeneration mechanisms are not so good. Good restoration of function in such cases must therefore depend upon timely intervention and upon the extent of damage undergone before the auto-immune process was stopped. We have found acupuncture to be invaluable

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in the treatment of ERU ([Moonblindness](#), moon blindness, recurrent ophthalmia, uveitis, recurrent uveitis).

We approach no cases of autoimmunity with pessimism.

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