

Moonblindness – Moon Blindness
ALTERNATIVE VETERINARY MEDICINE CENTRE
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MOONBLINDNESS – MOON BLINDNESS

*Recurrent Ophthalmia - Recurrent Uveitis - Periodic Ophthalmia – Equine
Recurrent Uveitis (ERU)*

What is it?

This is a potentially very dangerous and certainly very painful eye condition of horses. It is characterised by inflammation of the entire eye, both superficial and deep structures. The horse will tend to screw up the eye, especially when in moderate to bright light or when approached. There is often swelling of the lids and an excess of tears. The cornea generally becomes cloudy and there is usually evidence of previous damage. Between attacks, the eye shows some evidence of the inflammatory damage, depending upon the severity and number of previous episodes.

The condition tends to recur, at intervals which are not necessarily regular.

How does it occur?

This is not known. In Ancient Egypt, the condition was recorded and attributed to moon phases, on account of the regularity of recurrence in some case. Hence the common name 'moonblindness'. It may be an [autoimmune](#) disorder.

Is it responsive to treatment?

In conventional experience, the treatment is usually steroids (cortisone), which can reduce the inflammation and pain but the ultimate fate of the affected eye is blindness, usually with subsequent need for removal. There is often cataract formation, as a result of the repeated inflammatory episodes. Enucleation (eye removal) surgery is sometimes performed before blindness sets in, owing to the repetitive bouts of severe pain. If the other eye becomes affected, which is not uncommon, it usually means the end of the horse.

Moonblindness - AVMC

In natural medicine, we have happily seen much better outcomes. At the **AVMC**, we use [acupuncture](#) (needling) and [acupuncture-by-LASER](#) as a mainstay, supported by properly integrated [homeopathic](#), [herbal](#), [chiropractic](#) and [dietary](#) work, in a combined approach. Sometimes, after resolution, there may be a variable number of progressively milder relapses, which usually respond again, more quickly and recur with ever-decreasing frequency. While nothing can ever be guaranteed in medicine, the usual expectation is that intervals between episodes will lengthen until the condition eventually resolves. Each episode may require two or three acupuncture treatments and regular dosing with homeopathic medicines, to restore comfort and function. However, positive results of acupuncture treatment are often seen immediately.

We usually see resolution after one, two or three episodes. [Holistic management](#) must be maintained thereafter, in order to maintain health. This is a small price to pay.

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