

Back to pasture?



Full access to pasture is never recommended in a patient with hyperinsulinemia-associated laminitis (HAL).

- HAL is a chronic condition characterized by episodes of mild to moderate lameness.
- Sustained levels of insulin cause stretching and damage to the laminae without destruction or lysis of the basement membrane. This pathology eventually causes lameness and more typical signs of laminitis.
- The exact threshold and timeframe of sustained insulin levels needed to produce HAL is not known and is expected to vary based on individual susceptibility. HAL is the same as pasture-associated laminitis.
- HAL is detected in 30% of horses with PPID.

Dynamic Insulin Testing can help make decisions.

The decision to allow a patient to have limited access to a specific defined amount of pasture will depend on multiple factors.

As part of the decision making it is recommended to reassess the patient by performing an oral sugar test.

A negative test is needed before implementing strategies for limited access.

Insulin measurements should then be taken following grazing to evaluate the hyperinsulinemic effect.