**Thoracic Wounds vs. Trunk Wounds**

Wound healing rates in horses vary in relation to the wound severity and its anatomic site.

* There is a greater tendency of exuberant granulation tissue growth and excessive scarring on the lower limbs of horses compared to similar wounds in the thoracic region.
* Myofibroblasts are less well orientated in the limb when compared to trunk wounds and this is suggested as a cause for the decreased contraction efficiency of wound beds in limb wounds.
* The relatively poor blood supply to the limbs may play a significant role through decreased oxygen supply and decreased distal limb temperature.
* The presence of an increased microbial bio-burden in the lower limb compared to thoracic wounds also significantly delays healing although the precise mechanisms for this are not clear.
* Due to the location of the wounds: since the wounds are located on the limbs (especially on the lower limbs), it has more susceptibility to becoming contaminated due to it simply being closer to the ground and can become infected. This, therefore has a much lower susceptibility compared to the thoracic wounds.

These factors are thought to contribute to an imbalance in the growth factor profiles required for effective healing.

In particular, the prolonged presence of tissue growth factor β1 (TGF-β1), is blamed, in part at least, for the formation of exuberant granulation tissue.

Therefore, although the prognosis of wounds is based on many factors, wounds located on the limbs has a worse prognosis than wounds found on the thoracic region. This can also be irrespective of the size of the wound.