

# Equine Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction: Identifying Research Priorities for Diagnosis, Treatment and Prognosis Through a Priority Setting Partnership

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## For which topic were research priorities identified?

pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction (PPID)

## In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Europe - United Kingdom

## Why was it conducted at all?

Pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction (PPID) is the most prevalent endocrine disorder of older equids. To date, key research areas likely to have the greatest impact on equine health have not been identified. In human medicine, public and patient involvement is widely used to inform research agendas. Once diagnosed, the dopamine agonist pergolide is currently the only licensed treatment for PPID. However, evidence regarding its efficacy is largely based on a single uncontrolled trial [14] and numerous descriptive reports. Therefore, a more robust evidence base is required to inform veterinary surgeons and horse owners regarding optimal methods for diagnosis and medical treatment of PPID.

## What was the objective?

to engage with veterinary surgeons and horse owners to identify evidence gaps and prioritize these into a list of the 10 most important PPID research questions

## What was the outcome?

a ranking list of 10 research questions

## How long did the research prioritization take?

No information provided.

## Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

JLA method

## How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: establishing PSP: survey development. Step 2: collecting research questions: participants asked for research questions regarding the diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of PPID, 2174 questions submitted. Step 3: data processing: merging and refining of submissions, resulting in 47 indicative questions, check against evidence, not one question removed. Step 4: interim ranking: participants asked to select their top 10 most important questions from the longlist, top 25 questions were taken forward. Step 5: final prioritization: workshop: small and whole group discussions and nominal group technique, three rounds of ranking

## Which stakeholders took part?

Veterinary surgeons, horse owners with experience of PPID. Survey: 524 participants: 438 currently owned a horse with PPID and 47 had previously owned a horse with PPID, 39 veterinary surgeons. Interim ranking: veterinary surgeon and horse owners. Workshop: 9 veterinary surgeons and 13 horse owners with experience of PPID.

## How were stakeholders recruited?

An invitation to participate in the survey was distributed via email to collaborator BI's "Care and Connect" database and BI's veterinary practice contact list.

## Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders not only participated but were also actively involved in the research prioritization process: They were part of a steering group. The steering group consisted of veterinary surgeons, including specialists in evidence-based medicine and equine internal medicine, as well as horse owners with experience of PPID.